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# Calm after the Racist Storm, Buffalo Shootings Cease Following Massacre

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Eight days before the self-avowed white supremacist Payton Gendron's mass shooting in Buffalo, detectives laid out a hoard of weaponry that they seized in less than a week.

The weapons included ghost guns, automatic pistols, assault rifles, and revolvers confiscated in various parts of the Queen City.

The Buffalo News reported that detectives had so many guns that "they ran out of room on the table and went to get a second table."

Law enforcement officers filled that table while also displaying a plastic bag filled with a quarter kilo of fentanyl and another bag containing 4 ounces of crack cocaine.

The racially motivated murders at Tops Supermarket on May 14 punctuated a year in which officials said at least one shooting had occurred each weekend.

Perhaps, the Tops tragedy even proved too much for those most responsible for sowing the seeds of violence in Buffalo, New York's



*Statistics show that shootings in the city climbed exponentially in 2020 and the first half of 2021. While it has slowed since approximately 90 people were shot in Buffalo in 2022, thirty of those victims, including ten at Tops Supermarket, died. Officials said the number is more than the 10-year average of about 62 people. (iStockphoto / NNPA)*

second-largest city.

"Quiet is as kept; we haven't had one shooting since the tragedy," Sharon Linstedt, Communications and community relations coordinator, said in a telephone conversation.

While Linstedt quietly – and almost reluctantly – agreed that the inactivity represented a sort of a silver lining, she said she hoped people would come together and stand for peace.

"Yes, hopefully, it is not just in

the moment," Linstedt remarked.

Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said his officers are focusing on guns. "What drives the violence is guns," Gramaglia stated during a news conference before the Tops shooting.

"We're getting a lot of weaponry off the streets.

He noted that the city's police Intelligent Unit now works closely with the Erie County Sheriff's

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**It's time to address the problem**

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**Scrubs Ball honors health care heros**

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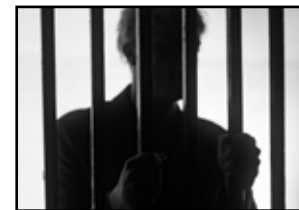
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## People In The News ...



Rep. Ruben Gallego



Katherine Massey

**NDG Quote of the Week:** "One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am."  
— Michelle Obama



## Rep. Ruben Gallego

As adults grapple with talking to their children about the latest school massacre where 19 elementary school students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, were shot and killed by a crazed gunman, Congressional finger-pointing appeared to reach its zenith.

"Just be clear, f— you [Ted Cruz], you f—ing baby killer," Arizona Democratic Congressman Ruben Gallego tweeted at the Republican Senator.

Gallego had replied to Sen. Cruz, whose comments following the May



24 massacre only served to upset many on social media.

Cruz, who will serve as keynote speaker at a pro-gun event in Texas this week, rebuked calls for changing gun laws.

"We know from past experience that the most effective tool for keeping kids safe is armed law enforcement on the campus," Cruz stated.

Later, a video surfaced of former Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke crashing Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's press conference about the shooting.

"Let him speak," some in the auditorium chanted at Abbott's security detail, who escorted O'Rourke out of the room. The former congressman, running against Abbott, attempted to challenge the governor about his controversial laws that allows just about

anyone in Texas to carry a gun without a permit or background check.

"This is totally predictable," O'Rourke stated. "This is after El Paso, and you are doing nothing. This is on you until you choose to do something."

After Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin railed against reporters and rebuked questions about getting rid of the filibuster to pass gun legislation, fellow Democrat Nina Turner, who lost her Congressional bid earlier this month, took him to task.

"Joe Manchin says he'll do anything to get gun legislation passed, then clari-

fies that he won't eliminate the filibuster to do so," Turner observed. "Not only is it something he can do, but he did also do to pass the military budget in December. Priorities."

When Colorado Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert tweeted that "you can't legislate evil away," Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez quickly fired back.

"Why even be in Congress if you don't believe in doing your job? Just quit and let someone who actually gives a damn do it instead of acting like a useless piece of furniture when babies are shot with

AR15s. We let teen boys impulse buy before they can legally have a beer," the outspoken Ocasio-Cortez replied.

Twitter users littered their timelines with photos of Boebert and the congresswoman's family, including young children, displaying automatic weapons.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden reflected on the victims.

"There are parents who will never be the same. To lose a child is to have a piece of your soul ripped away forever," Biden stat-

**See RUBEN, Page 5**

## Katherine Massey

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., helped to eulogize the Challenger Community News Journalist Katherine Massey in Buffalo on Monday, May 23, telling the gathering at Pilgrim Baptist Church that the 72-year-old fought for freedom, justice, and equality.

Like the Buffalo Criterion, the Challenger Community News counts among the more than 230 African American newspa-



pers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America. A trade association, the NNPA represents the Black Press of America.

"I am here to celebrate the life of a freedom fight-

ing sister, a courageous Black woman," Chavis declared during a five-minute speech that earned multiple standing ovations from mourners and others, including Mayor Byron Brown.

"The question now is what are we going to do in our anger, in our pain? We should learn from Katherine Massey ... this African queen," Chavis demanded.

"It's in our tradition that when one is taken from us to pay our respects. But the greatest way we can pay our respects to Katherine Massey is to keep her spirit alive, keep her journalism

alive."

The city's first African American and longest serving mayor, Brown called Massey a strong and proud Black woman.

"She was proficient in her history, proficient in her culture, and a lover of all people," Brown declared. "She was a constant presence in our community. A warm and welcoming spirit who had a beautiful and brilliant smile that could light up the atmosphere,

cut through every conflict, and warm your heart."

Brown said Massey attended every event meant to uplift and improve the city and its neighborhoods.

"She was called a Queen Mother of Cherry Street, but more than that, she was like a governor. She was the Queen Mother of this community," Brown remarked.

"Katherine Massey was a leader who led with warmth and intelligence

and the power of her pen," he stated.

Massey counted among the 10 African Americans killed on May 14, when self-proclaimed white supremacist Payton Gendron donned body armor, entered the Tops Supermarket with an assault rifle, and opened fire.

Three others were injured in the terror attack.

Authorities are holding

**See MASSEY, Page 10**

## PO1 Chloe Mason

By Megan Brown  
Navy Office of  
Community Outreach

FALLON, Nev.— A Mesquite, Texas, native is serving at Naval Air Station Fallon supporting TOPGUN aviators at the Navy's premier tactical air warfare training center.

Petty Officer 1st Class Chloe Mason is a 2006 John Horn High School graduate.

"My hometown taught me leadership skills," said Mason. "I was in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps for four years, so jumping into the military was an easy transition for me. I am able to relate to



junior sailors by leading them and being a positive influence in their life."

These lessons have helped Mason while serving in the Navy.

Today, Mason serves as an air traffic controller on board Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada.

"I joined the Navy for

educational opportunities and to travel around the world," said Mason. "I also love the discipline of the military."

Fifty-two years ago, TOPGUN was introduced with the mission of reducing casualties of naval aviators sustained during the Vietnam War. Within a year, this goal was reached with the United States having one casualty for every 12 enemy deaths. Since then, TOPGUN continues to train the finest naval aviators and has inspired one blockbuster movie released in May 1986, with a sequel planned for release in May of 2022.

Today's U.S. Naval Avi-

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**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**

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

Allen R. Gray

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Contributing Writers**

Jackie Hardy  
Lori Lee  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
David Wilfong

**Special Projects to the Publisher**

Melineaze L. Curtis

**Production**

David Wilfong

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



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# Are we part of the problem, or part of the solution?

By Royce West  
Texas Senate

I join millions of Texans and Americans in offering my most sincere condolences; first to the families of the victims of the horrific shooting that took place at Robb Elementary on yesterday. My thoughts go out also to all those who were able to walk away from yesterday's senseless tragedy. They are victims too and their lives are changed forever.

The entire Uvalde community I'm certain, remains in shock and trauma and will be for years to come. School, city and law enforcement officials are left searching for answers about what happened Tues-

day and what they could have done differently to prevent the massacre of innocent children, two teachers and others wounded. It is an unenviable situation for all involved with many hard and trying days ahead. As a society, we should all be somewhat ashamed when our children may rightfully say that they are afraid to go to school.

Less than two weeks ago, African Americans were targeted in Buffalo, New York. The same weekend, there were fatal shootings and multiple injuries at a Houston flea market. One person was killed and five were shot at a church function in California the same day.

Since yesterday, I have

already been asked numerous times what I or other lawmakers are going to do to end or even slow, gun-related deaths and violence.

A good start would be made by all of us as elected officials getting on the same page in admitting to a problem that is so obvious that it is blinding. But I ask us as Texas policymakers to take a hard look at what we have done over the last several sessions, including in 2021, that will actually make Texans feel safe. Personally, I don't feel safer knowing that neither a license or training is required to publicly carry a firearm in the state where I and my family live. Today's reporting that two, AR-styled assault weapons

and hundreds of rounds of ammunition for them were legally purchased in-person by the troubled 18-year-old shooter last week. WHY? We all now know the answer!

Public safety should not have devolved into the highly partisan issue that it has become. But too sadly, it has. I am calling on my Republican colleagues here in Texas and those in the halls of Congress to help all of us, our children, our brothers and sisters, our parents and grandparents, friends and loved ones, find a solution to a problem that literally, we cannot live with. We are all either part of the solution or part of the problem.



ALITHIA RAMIREZ



AMERIE JO GARZA



ANNABELLE RODRIGUEZ



ELIAHANA CRUZ TORRES



EVA MIRELES



JACKIE CAZARES



ROJELIO TORREZ



UZIYAH GARCIA



XAVIER JAMES LOPEZ

## Uvalde ... Buffalo ... Sandy Hook, etc.

Well, folks, I'm sure that all of you, like me, are shaking our heads, we're sad, and we're asking ourselves how do we end the gun violence in our country.

The fact that it was 19 innocent elementary students who died needlessly. Ladies and gentlemen, I have been involved in projects

over the years to fight for sensible gun control but it's not enough. The Bible says that faith without works is not enough.

We all need to do more to fight for sensible and reasonable gun control. Texas is one of the worse states when it comes to gun control. The fact that someone can buy a gun without a

license is ridiculous. We have to get a license for everything else from driving a car, our professional licenses, to a fishing license, etc. etc.

It's time to do something every day, every week, every month until we can change this dynamic. Write letters, call your legislators, march, JUST DO SOME-

THING! Prayers and condolences are not enough.

I cry for all victims of gun violence, but this one really hurts. Hug and love your children because you never know if they might be the next victim of a senseless crime.

Thelma Sanders Clardy  
The Clardy Law Firm

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# Scrub Ball Weekend to educate, recognize, and honor unspoken heroes in health care

DALLAS -- A comedy show, industry speakers, workshops and an awards program highlight the second annual three-day Scrub Ball Healthcare Conference and Gala. This event takes place June 1-4, 2022, at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Dallas. The event is designed to educate, recognize, and honor unspoken employees in the healthcare industry. Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, retiring Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, and newly elected Duncanville City Council member Karen Cherry are serving as Honorary Chairs.

Scrub Ball is being presented by the Cherry Foundation in collaboration with SIPS Consults and CS Assist.

The purpose is to recognize members of the healthcare community that are seldom recognized, with an emphasis on their importance to the industry.

"We are very thankful that the Mayor and Congresswoman Johnson recognize our efforts and join us as Honorary Chairs, said



Karen Cherry, founder of the nonprofit foundation bearing her name.

"We just saw a need to expand the appreciation and education for those that are often overlooked, and this is our way of thanking them," said Cherry.

The event is offering Continuing Education Units (CEU) to workers, seminars, workshops, scholarships, comedy show and an awards gala. Awards will be given out in three categories that acknowledge healthcare workers and employees of hospitals, nursing

homes, and clinics.

## VIVIAN THOMAS AWARD:

Dr. Vivien Theodore Thomas was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana in 1910. In an era when institutional racism was the norm, Thomas was classified, and paid, as a janitor, even though by the mid-1930s he was doing the work of a postdoctoral researcher.

This award will honor an entry level employee that through hard work and determination worked their way through the ranks and

is today considered a leader in the health care field.

## UNSUNG CHAMPION AWARD:

Someone or something that provides a great benefit, has done incredibly good work has performed some out-standing deed or functions, but has not received the credit or recognition they deserve. Highlights the person that always saves the day, steps up when needed, comes to work when others do not.

## THE CHERRY HEALTHCARE HEART AWARD:

An outstanding leader who is often recognized as the problem solver. They understand the need for policies and regulations and work hard to comply. Employee displays strong work ethics, are trustworthy, reliable, and admirable. They offer critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills that often eliminates issues before they occur.

Registration is also limited and may be purchased

online through its website [www.scrubball.org](http://www.scrubball.org). "We are bringing all of the different elements of what is important in the healthcare industry to one special time and place on an annual basis," said Deronda Lewis, Scrub Ball Chair.

Contributing partners of the Scrub Ball in Health-

care Conference and Gala include: WFAA TV, Texas Metro News, Estrella Media, Urban One, SIPS Consults, CS Assist, BeliMed Infection Control, City of Dallas, Right-Fit Network Solutions, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Visit Dallas, and MedWell Solutions.

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## Prism Health North Texas announces 32nd annual LifeWalk

Prism Health North Texas (PHNTX) is proud to announce that the 32nd annual LifeWalk will be a "Summer of LifeWalk", including events free to attend planned by PHNTX and LifeWalk teams taking place periodically throughout the summer months in 2022.

The Summer of LifeWalk will begin on Sunday, June 19, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a Marketpalooza and Pub Crawl along the Cedar Springs Strip, located between 4123 and 3847 Cedar Springs Road, which is home to many of

Dallas' LGBT+ bars, retailers, healthcare providers, and restaurants. Traditionally a 5K walk through the Uptown and Oak Lawn neighborhoods, the newly designed event series is highly anticipated after a two year hiatus from in-person events.

"We are thrilled to host LifeWalk in person after two years of virtual events," PHNTX Events Manager Terry Walker said. "With the relocation to the Cedar Springs Strip and addition of more events, we hope to increase community involvement and visibil-

ity of our organization. We are excited to share support from the community with local LGBTQ+ vendors at Marketpalooza."

Upcoming Summer of LifeWalk events include:

- MetroBall on June 3, 2022 at 7 p.m. at S4 at 3911 Cedar Springs Road
- LifeWalk Marketpalooza & Pub Crawl on June 19, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Caven Enterprises Central Park, commonly known as Caven Paid Parking Lot behind storefronts at 4001 Cedar Springs

See LIFEWALK, Page 13

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# DA announces opening of Dallas County Deflection Center

Two years since its inception, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, along with partner agencies Homeward Bound, the Dallas Police Department, Parkland Hospital, and the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, are proud to announce the opening of the Dallas County Deflection Center.

"This is a huge step in criminal justice reform – reform the community asked for," said Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Cruzot. "This will change the dynamic between police and the homeless, the mentally ill, and those struggling with substance use disorders."

The Dallas County Deflection Center provides an alternative to arrest and incarceration for mentally ill individuals accused of certain non-violent, low-level



Harry Shelton / Unsplash

misdemeanor offenses, such as criminal trespass. The Deflection Center, housed on the Homeward Bound campus, provides an evidence-based and trauma-informed case management plan connecting individuals to a wide range of community-based health and social services.

"This is a great moment in Homeward Bound's 42-year quest to bring healing and hope to people struggling with addiction and

mental illness in our community," said Douglas W. Denton, executive director of Homeward Bound Inc., North Texas' largest comprehensive behavioral health treatment services agency.

## Making a Real Impact

The Dallas County jail is the second-largest mental health treatment facility in Texas, but a jail stay does nothing to improve the mental health or emotional stability of a person with a

mental health or substance use disorder. Even brief periods of incarceration can cause significant life challenges for people with mental illness, jeopardizing employment, housing, and benefits. Research also shows that a person with untreated mental illness is 16 times more likely to be killed during a police encounter than other civilians approached or stopped by law enforcement. Through evidence-based, health-oriented, harm reduction strategies, the Dallas County Deflection Center will work to provide meaningful help for those suffering from mental illness, while reducing the costs associated with repeated jailing of individuals suffering from mental illness.

"It is a privilege and honor to join with so many community partners to keep women and men

from entering the criminal justice system, by instead, supporting them on their individual road to recovery and wellness," said Carol Lucky, CEO of the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority.

The 16-Bed Dallas County Deflection Center will provide:

- 24-48 hour observation and short-term crisis respite beds
- Peer support upon arrival
- Integrated care and individual treatment plans to assist with stabilization
- A comprehensive discharge plan with case management
- A warm handoff to the appropriate level of care, i.e. detox, transitional housing, medical care, outpatient services.

## A Coordinated Effort

The Dallas County Deflection Center is the

latest visionary project spearheaded by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office in its ongoing effort to better address people in need of mental health services.

"Just like DIVERT Court, which was groundbreaking at the time and continues to reap benefits for this state, such as closing 11 prisons and idling 4 others, we hope that this is a major step in this community which will provide alternatives to jail for a vulnerable population like the homeless and mentally ill," said DA Cruzot. "If we can help any other Texas community develop this type of approach, we will be happy to do so."

The Dallas County Deflection Center is located at 5300 University Hills Blvd., Dallas, Texas. 75241.

# Dallas County receives grant to support transportation access for youthful offenders

Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Cruzot is proud to announce the Dallas County District Attorney's Office has received a grant in the amount of \$10,750 from the Texas Bar Foundation to implement Transportation Access for Youthful Offenders.

"We are so thankful to the Texas Bar Foundation for this grant that will aid in continuing powerful work in Dallas County. This money will go directly into the future of our communities, ensuring we break the cycle of recidivism and drive down costs for taxpayers in the process," said Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Cruzot.

The Transportation Access for Youthful Offenders project is seeking to help close short-term transportation gaps for individuals assigned to the

AIM (Achieve Inspire Motivate) Drug Court.

AIM was established in February 2016 by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and is a pre-adjudication diversion program for first-time felony offenders aged 18-24. A study by the SMU Meadows Mental Health Institute found a 74% reduction in recidivism among AIM Court participants vs. Probationers and a cost savings of \$6.86 for every \$1 invested in AIM Court vs. probation.

## A Personal Experience

Quincy Chambers, an AIM graduate, knows first-hand how much the program can change a life. "AIM was a reality check," said Chambers, now 22-years-old.

Chambers was arrested when he was 17 for evading arrest in a motor vehicle. After completing the AIM Program, he got

his record expunged and is now employed by Garland Independent School District and works to share his story with others. He says a huge challenge during his time in the AIM program was transportation.

"I didn't have a car, so I had to rely on a friend or my dad who also worked full time," Chambers said. "It was a struggle for me. On top of trying to get to the courthouse, I had to pay AIM fees and restitution. Transportation was a big financial burden and stressful."

Since its creation in 2016, AIM has graduated 122 individuals between the ages of 18-24. The 12-18-month program includes life and parenting skills, counseling and substance abuse treatment, resources for housing, food and healthcare, and is centered around employment and education.

Before graduating, each participant is required to complete their GED and/or secure employment. After graduating from AIM, the participant's case will be dismissed and immediately expunged.

## Eliminating a Barrier

Reliable transportation can mean the difference between successful, long-term employment and lost opportunities. 51% of AIM participants lack a valid driver's license, and a third of these individuals do not own a vehicle. In addition, 10% of the participants live in areas with no viable public transportation.

With these grant funds from the Texas Bar Foundation, AIM participants will have consistent access to employment opportunities, job training, and other program requirements. Closing these short-term gaps can have an exponential impact on participants'

success. Together, we can create a safer community and improve our local workforce.

"This kind of support is a big relief," said Chambers. "Where I lived in Mesquite, we didn't have public transportation -- it was either get an Uber or have a friend come pick you up. If I couldn't get to and from AIM, I would still have that felony on my record. Now I am empowered to spread the message that you don't have to be defined by your mistakes, rather it's how you deal with them."

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$24 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's large charitable-funded bar foundation.

**RUBEN,**  
from Page 2  
ed.

"I am sick and tired of it. We have to act, and don't tell me we can't have an impact on this carnage," the President continued.

"I've spent my career working to pass common-sense gun laws. We know that mass shootings went down when we passed the assault weapons ban. We know that gun manufacturers have spent two decades marketing assault weapons, making them the largest profit. We must have the courage to stand up to the industry and the lobbies."

"It's time to turn this pain into action for every parent and every citizen of this country. We have to make it clear to every elected official in this country that it's time to act. It's time for those who obstructed the way, who have blocked the common-sense gun laws, to know we will not forget."



# TBPA students tune up to play with the professionals

Trinity Basin Preparatory Ledbetter Campus and Dallas ISD students tuned up on May 19, 2022 to perform orchestral and band music they had practiced throughout the spring semester. The concert was held at 5 p.m. at Trinity Basin Preparatory's Ledbetter campus, located at 2524 West Ledbetter Drive in Dallas.

Sixty students from 1st-8th grade participated in showcasing their newly developed musical skills. The students had been practicing



Courtesy photo

under the expert direction of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Teaching Artists to learn the basics of classical

music through the development of instrumental skills and discovering a love for music, along with other

skills applicable to all areas of life including curiosity, practice, and emotional intelligence. Trinity Basin Preparatory's Ledbetter Campus is one of five South Dallas campuses participating in the program, among campuses without their own traditional orchestra or band curriculums.

"Watching the students discover a love for music has made every moment of preparation exciting," Ledbetter Campus Principal Dawson Spicer said. "We

are extremely thankful for the partnership with Dallas Symphony Orchestra and thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to our students perform after months of hard work."

As student orchestras and bands typically meet for less than an hour a week in the traditional classroom setting, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Learning Artists aim to fully engage students in their musical aspirations, hosting group lessons three times a week at the campus

in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood.

All young musicians can have this same opportunity to learn from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra this summer at their annual summer camp being held July 9-30, 2022. The camp will be held at the Trinity Basin Preparatory's Ledbetter campus. There is no cost to attend the camp as instruments, instructors, and instructional materials are all provided by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

# All-Black New Orleans graduating class earns \$9.2 million in scholarships with 100 percent acceptance rate

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

New Orleans' St. Augustine High School, which accomplished many firsts for African Americans during the 1950s and 1960s, again enjoyed a historical moment for its 2022 graduating class.

The entire graduating class at the all-boys college preparatory school received acceptance to college, earning more than \$9.2 million in scholarship offers.

As noted on the Black excellence blog, Because of Them We Can, one of the mothers of a St. Augustine graduate, Twitter



Photo via NNPA

user @Kay\_Jeaux, took to the social media platform to share a clip of the class of 2022 as they celebrated graduation in cap and gown alongside a second line

band.

Captioned under the clip were a few receipts for the graduating class.

"It's late, but I don't care. The world deserves to see

this Black boy joy. Congratulations to THE St. Augustine High School class of 2022. 100% college acceptance. \$9.2M in scholarships. Straight out of the

7th ward of New Orleans," Jeux tweeted.

The blog pointed out that the post sparked widespread praise for the graduating class, having been viewed already more than 300,000 times.

According to the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, the Seventh Ward, where St. Augustine High School sits, was once considered the quintessential Creole neighborhood in New Orleans.

"Many educated and accomplished people of color lived here before the Civil War and throughout the time when Jim Crow laws were in effect," data center officials reported.

After desegregation, the city built the I-10 interstate right over the Claiborne neutral ground, destroying the 7th Ward's prosperous business district in the process, the officials added.

"Take note, America," Twitter user Kim M. Carpenter declared.

"Here is what happens when a community comes together and loves their children."

Added Hannah White, another Twitter user:

"This just made my whole day! Those young men battled hard to do so very well and now they can celebrate. #NewOrleans celebrates you! Congrats to the Class of 2022."

# Texans Can Academies honored with Business Excellence Award

Texans Can Academies, a nonprofit organization and the largest drop-out recovery system in the state, was recently awarded the Texas Consilium Business Excellence Award.

Texas Consilium is a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to helping businesses grow. The Business Excellence Award was established by Texas Consilium to help Texans expand their vision of what is possible and recognize organizations committed to continuous im-

provement and the pursuit of excellence.

"This award is a testament to the dedication of our educators and staff to helping students receive a high school diploma and prepare for a career or higher education," Dr. James Ponce, superintendent of Texans Can Academies, said. "It is an honor to be recognized for our dedication to our students' futures, as well as our commitment to serve as a resource that will benefit entire communities."

Texans Can Academies is

committed to bridging the gap between education and employment for students who have struggled in a traditional high school setting and want to receive their diploma. In addition to teaching core subject curriculum, the schools offer ongoing career programming that ensures better outcomes for its students as they work toward a high school diploma and economic independence.

To learn more about Texans Can Academies, visit [texanscan.org](http://texanscan.org).



Courtesy photo





# Alum and star athlete returns as head girls' basketball coach at MacArthur

After graduating from MacArthur High School in 2012, Newman attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she studied communication management, played for the NCAA Division I team on a scholarship, and served as a student coach from 2014 to 2016.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Newman back to MacArthur," says Superintendent of Schools Magda Hernandez. "There is nothing more rewarding than seeing our graduates return to serve in our schools. We watched Coach Newman excel as a player on the state championship girls' basketball team and then as an assistant coach for this successful program. I have no doubt that she will continue the success of the MacArthur Lady Cardinal basketball program."

# ★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

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# Juneteenth celebration highlights culture and history at Fair Park on June 18

The Blair Foundation and the Elite News will host the North Texas Juneteenth Celebration, March, and Festival on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at Fair Park. The event will feature local black-owned vendors, live entertainment, concessions, health and beauty expos, tech and panel discussions addressing topics indicative of personal and community advancement, a Kid Zone filled with kid-friendly activities, and other cultural activations to celebrate the national holiday. All programs and activities are free and open to the public.

"This is an educational and empowering celebration that brings communities and cultures together," said Darryl J. Blair, Publishing Editor of the Elite News. "The Blair Foundation and many other community leaders and partners want to utilize this holiday to celebrate unity, diversity, and inclusiveness."

Sponsors for the June-



teenth Celebration include HEAL AMERICA, Gas it up, Luster Hair Products, HSC Black Alzheimer's Brain Study, Elite News, Blair Foundation, Dallas College, Microsoft, Chase, Fair Park First, OVG360, and other notable sponsors.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union

soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, traveled to Galveston, Texas, to announce to over 250,000 enslaved people that they were free. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation two and a half years earlier, but the word had not reached Texas. The Dallas Historical Society has the only known original copy of the General Orders,

and they will be on display at the Hall of State during the Juneteenth Celebration.

For more information about the event, visit [www.northtexasjuneteenthcelebration.com](http://www.northtexasjuneteenthcelebration.com). For media inquiries, please contact Darryl Blair at [elitenewsblair@aol.com](mailto:elitenewsblair@aol.com).



Courtesy photos

## CALM, from Page 1

Office Narcotics and Intelligence Unit, State Police outfits, including the Community Stabilization Unit and Violent Gang and Narcotic Enforcement Team, the District Attorney's Narcotics and Intelligence Unit, and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and other federal agencies.

"We're going after the trigger pullers and the gun traffickers," Gramaglia declared.

Statistics show that shootings in the city climbed exponentially in 2020 and the first half of 2021.

While it has slowed since approximately 90 people were shot in Buffalo in 2022, thirty of those victims, including ten at Tops Supermarket, died.

Officials said the number is more than the 10-year average of about 62 people.

Mayor Byron Brown, the first African American mayor and the longest-serving mayor in Buffalo's history, plans to appear on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's live daily news program, "Let It Be Known," at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 20.

Brown, who has served as mayor since 2006, called Buffalo a resilient community.

"This community has been through a lot. But, before the pandemic, Buffalo has been going through a renaissance," Brown stated during a recent national television appearance.

"We're a mid-sized American city of over 278,000 people. And this part of the city, 80% African American but diverse with people of many different backgrounds living in

this community, we are certainly saddened that someone drove from hundreds of miles away, someone not from this community that did not know this community that came here to take as many Black lives as possible, who did this in a willful, premeditated fashion, planning this.

He continued:

"But we are a strong community, and we will keep moving forward. This is a community that is experiencing development. People have been hoping and waiting for investment and growth, and opportunity. "We are beginning to see that in this community, in all parts of the city, and we won't let that progress stop. We won't let hateful ideology stop the progress that we are seeing and experiencing in the city of Buffalo."



## 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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# Film Review: Top Gun: Maverick

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) Not sure what they paid Tom Cruise for making this Top Gun sequel. But whatever it was, it's not enough. He carries this behemoth action/drama on his shoulders and well deserves a big pay day.

Back in 1986, cadets at a U.S. Navy elite fighter pilot school were rivals competing for respect. One upstart stood out: Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Cruise). He was an aviator who charted his own path. Thirty-six years later that top dog is an old dog. An aging test pilot whose career didn't lead to fancy titles like admiral. Instead, he's still in the cockpit pushing new, high-tech aircraft to the max: Mach 6, 7, 8, 9...

Pete gets assigned the life-threatening task of thwarting a potential disaster in a foreign land. His job? Fly low altitude to a seemingly inaccessible target, hit a bullseye with just one bomb and escape a phalanx of antiartillery weapons. Now the former student becomes a leader assembling a crew of new Naval pilots on a mission that faces impossible odds: "Someone is not coming



back from this!"

Does the three-decade-old Top Gun premise still have legs? Can an older movie star appeal to younger audiences—the filmgoers who push movies to billion-dollar box office success? You can bet the TG:M team thought that through. They cast young multiethnic men and women. Actress Jennifer Connelly appears as Pete's love interest, which should attract an older crowd. Then there's Cruise's own fan base. Prospects are high.

The twentysomethingish candidates are led by actor Miles Teller (Whiplash) as Rooster. The diverse cadet cast also includes: Monica Babaro (The Good Cop), Manny Jacinto (Nine Perfect Strangers), Raymond Lee (The Lost City), Jay Ellis

(Insecure), Glen Powell (Hidden Figures). Ed Harris (Pollock), Jon Hamm (Mad Men), Charles Parnell (Pariah) and Jean Louisa Kelley portray the more mature characters. The enter ensemble delivers solid performances.

The thoughtful screenplay (Ehren Kruger, Eric Warren Singer, Christopher McQuarrie) gives the characters their own lanes. The writers' one big sin is introducing the cadets in a bar scene that goes on way too long. Yes, it pulls several storylines together and distinguishes the characters, but it also gives viewers too much to contemplate, initially. When the bar patrons break into song, their warbling becomes an inauthentic moment. More like a beer commercial than a

See **MAVERICK**, Page 10

## Duke Ellington takes center stage in Urban Arts Center's 'Love You Madly'

Dallas' premiere urban theater, Urban Arts Center (UAC) closes its 2nd season with a big band tribute to the Harlem Cotton Club of the 1920s with "Love You Madly: Celebrating the Music of Duke Ellington." UAC Producing Executive Director, Jiles R. King II, helms the Dallas based jazz band, dancers, singers and narrators. The swanky concert "Love You Madly" spins a sumptuous glamorous look of the original Jazz Age.

"Having lived in Harlem during graduate school, I fell in love with everything the Uptown sector of Manhattan had to offer," recalls Jiles. "History was every-

where you looked. Duke Ellington's music is part of that history. The Cotton Club is part of that history. To pair the Cotton Club with Dallas' immense artistic talent is a match made in musical heaven."

Dallas' multi-faceted singer, Gaye Arbuckle, leads the dynamic group through the history of music with songs made famous by singers like Mahalia Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Ivie Anderson and Bing Crosby. Rounding out the cadre of singers are, Babs Ipaye, Rickie Jones, Shennaya King and Drea Randle.

The show highlights 15 of the Dukes most iconic songs under the band direc-

tion of Dean Hill, musical direction of Andrea Wallace and choreography by JuNene K. Rounding out the creative team included technical direction and lighting by Milton Tatum, costume design by Beehive Design Studios, stage management by Erin Nicole, Judah Agbonkhina and Nkechi Murray.

Love You Madly is a part of the AT&T Performing Arts Center's Elevator Project and runs June 2-4, 2022 at 8:00 pm at Annette Strauss Square at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in the Arts District. Tickets are \$29.50 for general admission and can be purchased at tickets.attpac.org.



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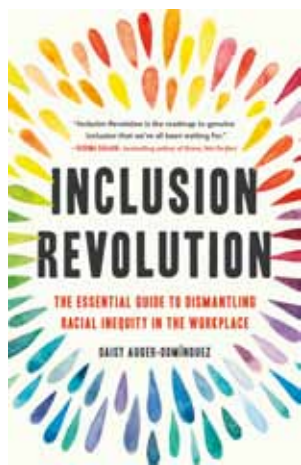
# NDG Book Review: 'Inclusion Revolution' is an advice-packed guide

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Everybody in.

The meeting's about to start, the train is leaving soon, the car is idling, so pack it up and let's go. We're not leaving anyone behind and nobody can complain about being out of the loop if we're together, so everybody in. With "Inclusion Revolution" by Daisy Auger-Domínguez, we can be sure that no one's missed.

The best there is. Now that the world seems to be getting a little closer to normal, that's what you want for your business: the best employees for the positions you have open. And now,



says Auger-Domínguez, is the best time to add inclusivity to your hiring practices.

To start the "Inclusion Revolution," she says, "commit to... understand-

ing who you are and what... barriers" your business has when it comes to BIPOC employees. Don't allow yourself to say it's "always been done" this way or that because even if it has, things can change.

Be sure to discuss your ideas with everybody on your team, and ask for careful referrals. Auger-Domínguez says that going the "friends and family" route may have worked before but studies show that recommendations from those categories often result in new hires that are the same as current employees in race, gender, and identity.

Use your privilege for change, but remember that

"Privilege is a transient concept." Be bold with your goals and willing to acknowledge that progress is good but there's always room to do better. Know the legalities of inclusive interviewing and hiring, and make sure all managers are aware, too. Try to ignore resumes or, at the very least, cover the names on them before you look them over; likewise, know how to use the right language when recruiting. Change the way you interview by asking "better... questions." Strive to focus on "culture add" rather than "culture fit." Use a good balance of mentorship and sponsorship to help employees get

accommodated. Expect that you'll get uncomfortable now and then. And finally, check yourself constantly: what if you're the problem?

Chances are that if you're a manager or business owner, yours is not strictly an 8-to-5 job; you probably put in a considerably longer day. And if you plan on tackling "Inclusion Revolution" by yourself, you can count on some very late nights for awhile, too.

Indeed, there's a lot to unpack inside this book – almost a full-time job's worth of information to know, understand, and implement to do this thing right. The reward, as author Daisy Auger-Domínguez

suggests, lies in a newly-diverse group of employees with a wider breadth of experiences to enhance your product.

And yet, judging by this advice-packed book, this won't be easy; some businesses may even find that implementing this book could be a serious challenge. In that case, readers may get the feeling that Auger-Domínguez has merely scratched the surface of what there is to do.

Still, you have to start somewhere and this book is a good beginning. "Inclusion Revolution" may be overflowing, but it's what you want when you're all in.

## MASSEY, from Page 2

Gendron without bail, and the 18-year-old faces 10 counts of murder and several other charges.

According to an online

obituary, Massey was the daughter of Robert and Kate Massey.

She leaves behind a sister, Barbara Mapps, and

brother, Warren Massey.

"A friend of mine, James Baldwin, used to tell me, 'Ben, the pen is mightier than the sword,'" Chavis asserted. "Who is going to pick up Katherine Massey's sword? Who is

going to write the truth? We've come through a lot as a people. Not only does Buffalo need a healing, but America needs a healing."

Pilgrim Baptist Church Pastor Frank Bostic joined Chavis and Brown and

each pledged to discuss the future of Buffalo at a private meeting.

"On behalf of Kat Massey, and all those precious lives we lost in this hateful attack, we will build better," Brown as-

serted.

"We will build stronger, and we will show the world that there is no place for evil like this. There is no place for hate like this. We owe it to the life and legacy of Kat Massey."

## MAVERICK, from Page 9

movie.

Rivalries, history, jealousy, comradeship and ambition drive them all to either accomplish goals or stymie others' efforts. Rear Admiral Chester "Hammer" Cain (Harris) to Maverick: "The future is coming. And you are not in it!" There are enemies, road blockers and haters, but the real villain could be failure and death. That cloud hangs over their heads as they fly into hostile territory, which is curiously never named. None of Hollywood's standard "boogeyman" countries are pinpointed. Not Russia, Iran or Afghanistan.

Fortunately, director Joseph Kosinski's (TRON: Legacy) style is not as bombastic as that of a Michael Bay (Ambulance, Pearl Harbor). There aren't a zillion distracting images per minute. Under his smart guidance, the edits are quick, judicious and rhythmic (editor Eddie Hamilton, Mission: Impossible -- Fallout) for 2h 11min. All

the visuals glisten, are well composed, perfectly lit and many are bigger than life due to cinematographer Claudio Miranda's (Life of Pi) penchant for closeups.

Sometimes there are moments when Cruise and Connelly are holding each other by a car or sunset that look too superficial. These transgressions are counterbalanced by spectacular aerial displays. Fighter jets flying perilously on their backs. Then straight up, straight down or hugging the ground. Supposedly, most of these tense plane shots happened in flight, with the cast strapped into their seats delivering their lines. True or not true, watching these harrowing acrobatics will push audiences back into their seats. Like they're withstanding G-force themselves. The movie tells you how it will feel: "Like an elephant is sitting on your chest."

At age 59, Cruise still looks fit—and at some angles, he could pass for 35.

His command of the lens, screen and audience is undeniable. Yes, he's more mature than the young Maverick was back in 1986, but aging has suited his persona well. Cruise also dials up his acting chops in emotional scenes with Teller, who plays the son of a former wingman, delivering touching father/son drama.

A driving musical score by Lorne Balfé, Harold Faltermeyer and Hans Zimmer and ultra-loud sound effects will get audiences' adrenalin pumping. By the time Lady Gaga sings the heart-warming theme song "Hold My Hand" over the final credits, people will be leaving the theater emotionally spent. Especially the IMAX crowd.

Nicely done on most levels—and certainly on all the levels that matter. Tom Cruise still has game.

In theaters, especially IMAX May 24th.

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

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# Colleyville Heritage grad launches Duality, a new sneaker for Reebok and fashion retailer APB

Ashley Hamilton, a Dallas native and 2021 graduate of Colleyville Heritage High School, was on the launch team of a new limited-edition sneaker called the APB X Yellowbrick CL Legacy "Duality". 150 pairs of the sneaker have been manufactured by Reebok and are being sold by fashion retailer APB (online at APBStore.com and in-store at APB locations in Columbia, Greenville, Charleston, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville).



Courtesy photo

The creation of Duality was a collaboration between Reebok; APB;

the national education and workforce nonprofit Jobs for the Future; and Yellow-

brick, an online platform that offers university-affiliated courses for creators who are seeking to enter the fashion, sports, beauty, music, and media industries. Launched in the spring of 2021, the partnership between the four organizations worked with 36 students, ages 17-20, to teach the knowledge, skills, and experience that's needed for a pathway into the sneaker industry.

"Growing up, I loved to draw clothing and dresses

and watch videos of how to create DIY outfits. I've always been inspired by how people use fashion to express their unique personalities," says Hamilton, who is currently a freshman at Howard University and cites Rihanna and Kate Middleton as two of her style influences. "My experience with Yellowbrick was a creative whirlwind, and it's education that can benefit anyone regardless of whether you're a sneakerhead or not. I'm grateful

for every one of the team members who were such gracious teachers, and I'm excited to see our Duality project come to fruition."

The pro bono instruction that Hamilton received combined content from Yellowbrick's popular Sneaker Essentials (a ten-week course that was developed in tandem with Fashion Institute of Technology and Complex.com) with live mentorship from leaders

See DUALITY, Page 12

## Black real estate professionals recruit Black appraisers to combat bias, declare war on Black homeownership gap

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - When a former client of leading Black real estate broker Donnell Williams was about to get his house refinanced in Wharton, New Jersey, Williams quoted him as asking, "Should I have my White friend come over and open up the door for the appraiser?"

Williams, a realtor for 30 years and broker for 21 years, is well aware that his former client's perception of racism within the real estate industry is indeed a reality. Current media stories are full of reports of people who have had to conceal their racial identities - going as far as to hide family photos and cultural art - in order to get a fair and equitable appraisal of their home.

It is for this reason and many others that the Black Real Estate Professionals Alliance (BREPA.org) of which Williams is president, has joined with the Appraisal Institute (AI). Together, BREPA and AI are launching a trailblazing program to recruit and train at least "100 Black Appraisers in 100 Days". This is a new initiative aimed at bringing parity to the field of appraising. BREPA is teaming with AI's "Appraisal Diversity Initiative."

Here are the facts:

- According to The Appraisal Institute, a global professional association of real estate appraisers, there are 78,000 appraisers in the U. S. which includes 85.4 percent White appraisers, but only 1.3 percent African-Americans.

- According to the White House, which also recently announced a new anti-bias initiative for appraisals, "New research shows that mis-valuation in communities of color is widespread. A recent report from Freddie Mac found that appraisals for home purchases in majority-Black and majority-Latino neighborhoods were roughly twice as likely to result in a value below the actual contract price (the amount a buyer is willing to pay for the property), compared to appraisals in predominantly white neighborhoods."

- According to a report by the Washington Post, there is currently no federal database for discrimination in appraisals. However, states across the nation - including New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois - are beginning to explore ways to penalize those who traffic in racial discrimination in appraisals through legislations or the courts.

- As with all systemic racial disparities, this bias also directly impacts gener-

ational wealth building for the Black community. The National Urban League reports that the median White family holds eight times the wealth of the typical Black family and five times the wealth of the typical Latino family.

With several new initiatives, Williams, former president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), has declared war on the homeownership gap experienced by communities of color. According to the U.S. Census, as of the second quarter of last year, the Black homeownership rate was 44.6 percent compared to 74.2 percent for Whites, according to NAREB's State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report. That is a gap of 29.6 percent - larger than the 27 percent gap that existed "in 1960, before the Civil Rights movement and Fair Housing laws," the SHIBA report said.

Williams hopes that the launch of his initiatives will help close the gap, thereby help to realize the highest homeownership rate in years for first time buyers. Civil rights organizations that deal with economic justice issues agree that the appraisal bias issue is a key to bringing parity.

"The National Urban League has long recog-

nized racial bias in home and property appraisals as a barrier to Black homeownership and generational wealth building," said Marc H. Morial, NUL president/CEO. "Through our work as one of the nation's largest providers of housing counseling assistance to communities of color, we know all too well that this type of discrimination has gone on for too long and in plain sight."

Williams, former president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, contends that providing scholarships (which will differ from state to state), helping to facilitate the required 2,000 apprentice hours, and the full and final licensing of more African-American appraisers, will provide African-American homeowners with a sense of certitude in the appraisal process.

Williams also stresses that 100 Black Appraisers in 100 Days will not only provide Black homeowners, in particular, with greater confidence in the appraisal process, but will also create jobs in the Black community that pay a living wage with salaries that can range from \$57,000-\$147,000 a year. Together, these actions will serve to increase Black homeownership and help close the

wealth gap, Williams says.

Dozens across the country have already signed up for the opportunity to become an appraiser on BREPA.org. One potential apprentice, Candis Pressley of Philadelphia, is a seasoned real estate broker of 23 years. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in real estate and says she simply loves the business. However, she too has run into racially biased appraisers.

Candis recalls finalizing a contract where her client was the lessee and the appraiser was asking for proof of her authority to sign the lease. "Really, in my 23 years of doing this, I've never seen anything like it," she said. "I felt it was racial bias from the appraiser and what they were asking. And it really encouraged me that this is a much-needed program."

The mother of a 10-year-old son, Pressley says she has already begun teaching him about real estate and she hopes to see him in the business someday with "generational wealth" that can be continually passed down.

"It's always been the case of a Caucasian person coming into our properties telling us what the value is," says Bill Collins, communications liaison for the Black Real Estate Profes-

sionals Alliance. "This initiative is going to change that. Now you will have someone who looks like us who hopefully will be level-headed enough after they go through these apprenticeships to do a fair job for the consumer. Let's also keep in mind that this is not just about them doing a fair job for those who look like us but being able to work in the industry at large."

Collins states one of the reasons more African-Americans do not seek to become appraisers is "because of the gatekeepers. It's hard to get mentorships even if you meet the qualifications. Then they want you to have a bachelor's degree. Then you have to put in so many apprentice hours. It's a good ole boy network we can't get in to do those training hours."

Advocates in the field of homeownership agree that more Black appraisers will assist in remedying the issue of appraisal bias.

In a recent column, Charlene Crowell, a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending, quoted The Urban Institute: "Appraiser bias has likely played a role in homeownership and housing wealth outcomes, and increasing diversity in the field can diminish this bias in the long term."



# President Biden signs landmark police reform executive order

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Joe Biden signed an executive order on police reform that he hopes will help prevent excessive force and encourage officers to intervene in such cases.

"Two years ago, the murder of George Floyd exposed for many what Black and Brown communities have long known and experienced – that more must be done to ensure that America lives up to its founding promise of fair and impar-

tial justice for all," President Biden stated.

The President signed the order on May 25, the two-year anniversary of Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Following the murder conviction of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, three other cops were found guilty in federal court of violating Floyd's civil rights.

Prosecutors said the trio stood by while Chauvin pressed his knee into the unarmed 46-year-old's neck for more than nine minutes.

Thomas Lane recently

agreed to a plea deal to avoid state prosecution and serve two years in prison.

The other two officers involved, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao, face a state trial this summer.

"The incident sparked one of the largest social movements this country has ever seen, with calls from all corners to acknowledge the legacy of systemic racism in our criminal justice system and in our institutions more broadly," administration officials stated prior to Biden signing the executive order.

Biden's action will ad-

vance effective, accountable policing and criminal justice practices that will build public trust and strengthen public safety, the White House said.

"Police cannot fulfill their role to keep communities safe without public trust and confidence in law enforcement and the criminal justice system," administration officials wrote in a Fact Sheet.

"Yet, there are places in America today where the bonds of trust are frayed or broken. To heal as a nation, we must acknowledge that fatal encounters with law

enforcement have disproportionately involved Black and Brown people," they continued.

The order intends to enhance public trust by promoting accountability, transparency, and the principles of equality and dignity in policing and the larger criminal justice system.

Increased trust makes policing more effective and thereby strengthens public safety, the President stated.

"Without that trust, victims do not call for help. Witnesses do not step forward. Crimes go unsolved. Justice is not served," he

said.

The order mandates measures for all federal law enforcement agencies, leveraging the President's direct authority over the executive branch.

It requires the use of federal tools such as guidance on best practices, training, and technical assistance, and grantmaking to support reforms at state, tribal, local, and territorial law enforcement agencies that will strengthen public trust and improve public safety across the nation.

**See RFORM, Page 14**

## MASON, from Page 2

ators possess the professionalism, tactical skills, innovative mindset, and understanding of advanced technologies to succeed against adversaries. They are disciplined, critical thinkers who excel in challenging environments – like those seen in the movie, according to U.S. Navy officials.

"I am extremely excited about the impact this movie will have," said Vice Adm. Kenneth Whitesell, Commander Naval Air Forces. "Much like the trend that followed the original film, I am confident that Top Gun: Maverick will have a tremendous impact on our Navy recruiting efforts which will greatly increase the numbers of brave and talented Sailors among our ranks."

According to Navy officials, TOPGUN is a prestigious program only open to the top one percent of naval aviators. Aviators who at-

tend the course are trained in a variety of areas including air combat, jet maneuverability, enemy tactics and more.

The mission of NAS Fallon is to support carrier air wings prior to deployment, as well as, other units during training and exercises. This goal is achieved through 300 clear flight days a year, four bombing ranges, an electronic warfare range and many other training facilities. The base is also home to a 14,000-foot runway, which is the longest in the Navy.

NAS Fallon provides aviators the unique opportunity to train in realistic battle scenarios while including every element of an air carrier wing. It is the only facility in the world with this ability.

The aircraft stationed at NAS Fallon support aircraft carrier missions around the world. This year, the Navy is celebrating the centen-

nial of the aircraft carrier and its importance to naval aviation. When the air wing is embarked on an aircraft carrier, the ship contains more than 70 attack fighter jets, helicopters and other aircraft, all of which take off from and land aboard the carrier at sea. With more than 5,000 sailors serving aboard these ships, aircraft carriers are self-contained mobile airports.

"The aircraft carrier is our U.S. Navy's centerpiece, our flagship, and a constant reminder to the rest of the world of our enduring maritime presence and influence," said Rear Adm. James P. Downey, USN, Program Executive Officer (PEO) Aircraft Carriers. "These ships touch every part of our Navy's mission to project power, ensure sea control, and deter our adversaries."

Serving in the Navy means Mason is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding mili-

tary readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through underwater fiber optic, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

Mason and the sailors

they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I am proud of being an air traffic controller because this was never my goal," said Mason. "Every day is always a battle to make sure I keep my rate. I am still here fighting and making it work, while broadening my horizons and learning along the way."

The future of U.S. aviation depends on the Navy's ability to achieve their vi-

sion for defeating tomorrow's air threats with the support of the ground crews and aviators.

As Mason and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their nation in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy means honor, courage, commitment and perseverance," added Mason. "Every day is always a battle to ensure that my sailors are taken care of and to always have a voice."

## DUALITY, from Page 6

at Reebok and APB. The instruction covered product development, sales, marketing, and retailing. All participants produced a final project that included a unique sneaker design, a production plan, and retail/marketing strategies.

As a bonus opportunity, the three students who submitted the most compelling

designs/plans were invited to collaborate on their concept for manufacturing by Reebok and sale through APB. Hamilton was among the trio that was selected to participate in the development of Duality. Net proceeds from the purchases of the Duality shoe will provide additional funding for the program.

"Our Sneakers Essentials course has been elevated through the work that we did on Duality with Reebok, APB, and JFF," said Michael Godshall, Chief Creative Director at Yellowbrick. "Ashley was able to interact directly with Reebok and APB experts representing all facets of the industry, and we're immensely proud of what she accomplished."

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# May auto sales expected to fall to slowest pace in 2022

*New-vehicle sales volume in May is forecast to fall nearly 28% from one year ago, to 1.14 million units.*

(PRNewswire) -- With no relief from elevated prices and tight new-vehicle inventory, U.S. auto sales in May are expected to drop to their lowest level of the year in May. According to the Cox Automotive forecast released today, the seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of new-vehicle sales in May is expected to hit 13.1 million, a step backward from April's 14.3 million level and far below the 16.9 million level posted in May 2021.

May sales volume is forecast to finish near 1.14 million units, down 9% from last month and nearly 28% from one year ago. Last year, in May 2021, new-vehicle sales reached 1.59 million, the second-best month of 2021 by volume, behind only March. While high prices and tight inventory are negatively impacting new-vehicle sales this month, the low sales volume can also be attributed to the calendar. There are 24 selling days this month, three fewer

than last month and two fewer than May 2021.

Tight inventory isn't the only headwind facing the market. Other issues may be having a growing impact. Rising interest rates and higher prices, and the resulting increase in monthly payments, are likely hurting demand as well. Vehicle affordability in the U.S. continues to worsen, according to the

Cox Automotive/ Moody's Analytics Vehicle Affordability Index. In addition, lower consumer optimism in the wake of high inflation, surging gas prices, and a volatile stock market may be keeping some potential buyers from entering the market.

"Historically, the daily sales pace is higher in May than in most other months, with spring opti-

mism in the air, thoughts of summer road trips on the horizon, and the buzz of Memorial Day sales," said Charlie Chesbrough, senior economist at Cox Automotive. "But many of the industry's normal patterns have been overturned by tight inventory and the lingering effect of the global pandemic."

May 2022 Sales Forecast Highlights

- Vehicle sales are expected to drop nearly 28% from May 2021 and fall 9% from last month.

- The SAAR in May 2022 is estimated to be 13.1 million, below last year's 16.9 million level and down from April's 14.3 million pace.

- May 2022 has 24 selling days, three fewer than last month and two fewer than May 2021.

## LIFEWALK, from Page 4

Road

- LifeWalk Brunch on July 9, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Roy G's at 4001 Cedar Springs Road

- Team Clover Open on August 20, 2022 on the Cedar Springs Strip

- Gay Softball World Series volunteer opportunities beginning on August 29, 2022 at Kiest Park at 3080 S Hampton Road in Dallas, Waxahachie, Carrollton, and Euless

- Miss LifeWalk 2022 on September 25, 2022 at the Rose Room in S4 at 3911 Cedar Springs Road

Marketpalooza will include over 30 local vendors and artisans who will sell their wares to LifeWalk participants during the event, local DJs providing music, and members of the PHNTX Core Prevention, ACA Marketplace & Policy, and Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement (PACE) departments will be available to connect attendees with the organization's services, including free HIV testing. After a round of shopping, Marketpalooza attendees are invited to enjoy rounds of beverages during the Pub Crawl portion of the event, utilizing their LifeWalk Pub Crawl Pub Passes to earn stamps from bars and restaurants along Cedar Springs Road. Pub Passes will be stamped by PHNTX

staff members managing tables at each of the establishments, providing information about LifeWalk, LGBTQ+ healthcare issues, and services available via PHNTX. Those who complete the Pub Pass will be entered into a drawing with prizes from local businesses including a weekend hotel stay with round-trip air fare.

The beloved Miss LifeWalk pageant will serve as the closing ceremony for the Summer of LifeWalk, including the crowning of the 17th Miss LifeWalk and closing celebration, where the top fundraiser of the year will be announced.

"We look forward to seeing familiar and a lot of new faces on LifeWalk teams at these events," Walker added. "We encourage our attendees to sign up for fundraising as a team with friends or coworkers."

LifeWalk benefits PHNTX's mission to advance the health of North Texas through education, research, prevention, and personalized HIV care. Since its inception in 1991, LifeWalk has raised over 14 million dollars for HIV/AIDS programs and services offered to the community by PHNTX.

To fundraise for LifeWalk, join or create a team, or RSVP for upcoming events, visit LifeWalk.org.



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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.



# Doctors Are Always Right

By James L. Snyder

Last year I suffered what is referred to as a heart attack. I got to the hospital in time, so there was no major damage. I had one artery known as the "Widow Maker" that was 90% blocked, which seemed to be a very serious thing.

Who knew I even had a heart, but doctors are always right.

Coming home from the hospital, I had all kinds of medications to take twice a day, and my blood pressure needed to be taken twice a day as well. I didn't think all of this was necessary, but doctors are always right.

Fortunate for me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage took over as my in-house medical supervisor. Please do not ask me what that means because I have no idea. She took care of all of my medication every day as well as taking my blood pressure.

I had no obvious after effects of this heart attack, and I seem to be doing just fine.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage several times



a day would ask me, "How do you feel today?"

The first time she asked this, I smiled and chirped, "I feel with my fingers."

This was supposed to be a joke, but I was the only one who got it, and the other person in our residence did not think it was very funny.

"Stop joking around," she would say every day, "How are you feeling today?"

Then I would say, "I'm fine."

"No, you're not," she said. "You just had a heart attack, so you're not doing fine."

I'm not sure what it would take to convince her I am doing fine. So, I came up with an idea that did not work.

"Because of the wonderful work and care you have given to me," I said as cheerfully as possible, "I'm doing fine." Then I would smile back at her and say, "Thank you for all your care."

No matter what I do, I can never get the upper hand.

I am not quite sure how a person is supposed to feel after a heart attack because I did not feel any different than before.

A six-month doctor appointment was coming up, and I was hoping he could give me a good report. But, until then, I was at the discretion of my wife.

Every morning it became the same routine. "How are you doing today? And don't tell me you're fine."

Of course, I could lie to her and manipulate her to do things for me. That did cross my mind, but then I realized that eventually, she would find out, and payday would come.

I would always say, "I'm good today."

I did not say I'm fine, but that still did not settle with her, and she scoured at me and went back into the kitchen.

I was trying to come up with ways to answer that question, but nothing seemed to settle with her. So one morning, I decided to try something different. When she asked me how I was, I said, "I'm terrible today."

That got her attention, and she came and said, "What can I do to help?"

That is what I was waiting for, and so with a very somber tone of voice, I said, "Well, if you want to help me feel better, you could get me an apple fritter."

Unfortunately, it did not work, but at least I tried.

I was sure looking forward to my doctor's visit and getting the authorita-

tive word from him. Until then, someone else in the house had that word, and it certainly wasn't me.

I am not very trusting of doctors these days. I don't know if they get it right or not. I don't depend upon them because I know a doctor can make a mistake. Sometimes a mistake is worse than the illness. But I take things as they come and try to think them through before making a decision.

Then, the day of my doctor's appointment arrived.

After I went through all of the examinations that doctors like him usually do, he looked at my results, and said, "You're fine, you're doing good."

When he said that, I looked at him, smiled and said, "Doctor, can I have that in writing?"

He laughed at me and then left the room, and I went home.

The first thing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said when I walked in the house was, "What did the doctor say?"

I've been waiting for this moment for a long time and

I was going to savor every delicious moment.

"My dear," I said as soberly as possible, trying to hide chuckles, "the doctor said I was fine and doing good, and doctors never lie." Then I splashed a laugh all over the place. It was one of my finest moments.

I do not often win like this, but I have learned that it takes a lot of work to get to one win. For me one win is worth the effort.

While I was enjoying my win, I thought of a Bible verse. "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Galatians 6:9).

It's very easy to lose heart and I've done it often. The key to all this is, don't give up, be diligent and sow the right seeds.

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

## REFORM, from Page 12

The order creates a new national database of police misconduct to include records of officer misconduct, including convictions, terminations, de-certifications, civil judgments, resignations, and retirements while under investigation for serious misconduct, and sustained complaints or records of disciplinary actions for serious misconduct.

The data also will have due process protections for officers.

Biden's order requires federal agencies to adopt measures to promote thor-

ough investigation and preservation of evidence after incidents involving the use of deadly force or deaths in custody, as well as to prevent unnecessary delays and ensure appropriate administration of discipline.

It also mandates the adoption of body-worn camera policies.

Further, the order bans the use of chokeholds and carotid restraints unless deadly force is authorized and restricts the use of no-knock entries.

Further, the order directs

a government-wide strategic plan to propose interventions to reform the criminal justice system. A new committee with representatives from agencies across the federal government will produce a strategic plan that advances front-end diversion, alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation, and reentry.

Biden has ordered the attorney general to publish an annual report on resources available to support the needs of persons on probation or supervised release.

"It's an effort to be responsive," administration officials stated.

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# A True Friend



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

As I was growing up in high school, there was a favorite saying that we use to say and write in our yearbooks. "True friends are like diamonds, precious, rich and rare. False friends are like autumn leaves, they're found everywhere."

Have you ever found a true friend who makes your heart glow? Someone that is wonderful and you're honored and proud to know. A friend that you laugh with and even at times you cry with. A friend who loves you when you don't know why?

A friend that just seems to understand you and who loves you no matter what you do. A friend who you think of day and night, that shows up when the time is just right.

A friend that shares all of your ups and downs and that you smile with, replacing your frowns with a smile. A friend that appears whenever there is a need; surely you must know that God planted that



seed.

These seeds God has planted here on earth cannot be measured by earthly worth. They were planted deeply in your friend's heart by God's love placed here from the start.

Value those friendships and the love. Honor your friend decisions and never try to make their dreams your revisions. Respect their feelings and never make demands. Hold their love tightly in your heart and your hands.

Never be angry if you don't talk to them each day. For a heart can love you even from far away. Trust in friendship, give a piece of your heart; this

is how friendship was intended from the very start.

Hold their memory in your heart and your mind; continue to love them all the time. See them for what they really are—true friends are Angels sent by God! --Author Unknown

Jesus is a friend that sticketh closer than a mother, father, sister or a brother. He said that if we are children of God, then we can hear God's voice, read His word and obey Him.

"He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." -- John 8:47

One of the great mysteries of the universe to most logical mind is how God can communicate with six billion people on the earth at the same time.

It is one of those mysteries people must let go of because our "hard drive" would crash if we had to explain and understand this mystery before we believed and trusted in God. It is as though He places a computer chip in each human and when we place our faith and trust in Him, it becomes activated. We begin to communicate with Him. He further explains this relationship in the following parable:

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The

watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." -- John 10:1-5.

The Shepherd is always representative of Christ. Sheep are representative of God's children. Know-

ing the Shepherd and His voice allows us to have the assurance that we will not be fooled by another shepherd's voice.

It is only when we are dull of hearing that we mistakenly hear another's voice and follow it. Sin can create a poor frequency in our communication with the Shepherd. Keep your frequency free of static (sin) today so that the Shepherd can lead you and go before you.

*(Editor's Note: This column was originally published on May 24, 2012)*

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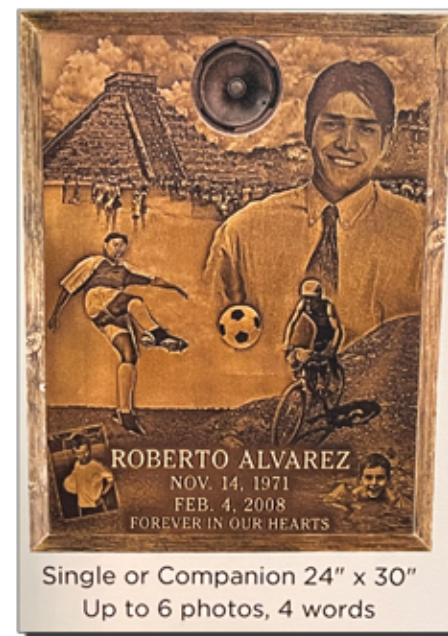
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