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## Tone deaf Corporate America blasted for trying to 'own Juneteenth'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill to officially mark Juneteenth – June 19 – as an official federal holiday.

One year later, as racism continues to permeate the nation and many African Americans prepare to observe the country's 12th federal holiday, corporate America remains tone-deaf at best.

Social media users and others have lashed out at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis for offering a pre-packaged watermelon salad as part of its Juneteenth menu.

The museum circulated a photo of the salad as it invited the public to its Juneteenth celebration.

"This is ridiculous and a mockery of Juneteenth," Twitter user @WishYaHadAlexis wrote. "I've never had a watermelon salad or even heard of it. SMH."

Another Twitter user, @MajorFactor2, said, "There can't possibly be any Black folks in these boardrooms when decisions like this are being made."

Initially, museum officials at-



Initially, museum officials attempted to justify the offensive gaffe by noting that the watermelon salad has remained a staple in their food court's manager's family's Juneteenth celebration. (Photo via NNPA)

tempted to justify the offensive gaffe by noting that the watermelon salad has remained a staple in their food court's manager's family's Juneteenth celebration.

Later, they released a statement apologizing.

"As a museum, we apologize and acknowledge the negative impact that stereotypes have on communities of color," officials wrote.

"The salad has been removed from the menu. We are currently reviewing how we may best convey these stories and traditions during this year's Juneteenth celebration

as well as making changes around how our food service provider makes future food selections."

The statement continued:

"There should have been a label explaining the history and meaning behind this menu item, and it should not have been on the shelf before that label was ready.

"We understand how this appears with no context, and we apologize. However, we are pulling it from our food court immediately until the sign is ready to accompany it."

See JUNETEENTH, Page 6



### How Canada does what the U.S. won't

- See Page 3



### Lack of care after childhood cancer

- See Page 4



### Looking back at a history of hate

- See Page 5



### Perot Museum ups offerings for STEM

- See Page 6



### CFBISD keeps the summer food coming

- See Page 7



### Soujourner Truth's story told online

- See Page 9



### Getting ready for high electric bills

- See Page 12



### Sister Tarpley: Four Rules to Live By

- See Page 15

### Inside...

People in the News ....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Northside .....	7
Entertainment .....	9-10
Marketplace .....	11-12
Career / Notices .....	13
Religion .....	14-15
GM .....	16



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### People In The News ...



Dr. Sandra Guerra



Wayne Brady

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."  
—Muhammad Ali



## Dr. Sandra Guerra

AUSTIN, TX— Texas Health Action (THA), a community-informed nonprofit with an expertise in serving LGBTQIA+ people and people impacted by HIV, recently named

Dr. Sandra Guerra as its chief medical officer (CMO). In this role, Guerra is responsible for clinical leadership, quality processes and medical education efforts that advance THA's mission of providing access to culturally affirming, quality health services in a safe and supportive environment. She assumed her new role on June 6, 2022,



replacing Dr. Cynthia Brinson.

"We are incredibly grateful for the legacy Dr. Brinson has left as one of the founding members of our organization, and we look forward to the many con-

tributions Dr. Guerra will bring." Christopher Hamilton, chief executive officer of THA, said. "Dr. Guerra's extensive public health background and experience working with diverse patient populations make her the ideal person to lead Texas Health Action's growing clinical programs."

In her new role, Guerra oversees THA's programs including Kind Clinic, which provides sexual health services through locations in Austin, San Antonio and Dallas; and TeleKind, which provides Texas residents access to the HIV prevention medication known as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) via

virtual appointments, as well as at-home testing and HIV care.

"I have watched Texas Health Action grow from Austin's first PrEP clinic to a thriving nonprofit that provides access to PrEP for all Texans, among a range of health services," Brinson said. "Dr. Guerra's more than 20-year career in population-based healthcare and leadership experience at large multidisciplinary organizations make her the perfect choice to help continue this growth."

Before joining THA, Guerra was the CMO of Centene Corporation Well-Care of Kentucky and the interim deputy director of

the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. Prior to this, she served as the vice president and CMO of Humana Military, which offers military health care through the Department of Defense TRICARE East program. From 2005-2012, Guerra was the regional medical director and preventative medicine residency program director for the Texas Department of State Health Services. She has also served on the Board of Regents for the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Board of Preventive Medicine PAFT Exam Committee, and the San Antonio AIDS Foundation Board of Direc-

tors, among others.

"At this point in my career, I am excited to work with Texas Health Action toward solutions for such a deserving population," Guerra, said. "I am honored to join an organization focused on prevention and health equity."

Guerra earned a Bachelor of Science in Child Development and Family Relationships from The University of Texas at Austin, a Doctor of Medicine from Texas A&M University Health Science Center, and a Master of Public Health from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health.

## Wayne Brady

(Black PR Wire) Multitalented actor, host and comedian Wayne Brady has made audiences laugh for years on shows like "Whose Line Is It Anyway," "Let's Make A Deal" and Dave Chappelle's "Chappelle's Show". But he never imagined that he would be doing this. As a matter of fact, he never thought he'd live long enough to even see this age.

"Every day after the age of 45 is a win for me," Brady said in an Instagram video. "Because my father passed away at the age of 45 and I lived in fear for years that I would die when I reached



45. So when I open my eyes—when the Lord lets..., that's another year that I'm grateful for and I'm grateful in the midst of all this."

Now, years later, at age 50 Brady reflects on his life: At 16, Brady started perform-

ing in community theater and at the Orlando improv troupe SAK Comedy Lab, where he first started developing his improv skills. In 1996, he moved to Los Angeles, where he continued developing his acting skills.

Even with all his success, Brady has been dealing with a lot of pain behind the scenes.

Brady's depression began to send him on a downward spiral, so much so that it ended his marriage in 2006. But the turning point for him was his 42nd birthday in 2013. That's when he hit rock bottom emotionally. Holding nothing back the comedian gave a very stark

description of his low point on Entertainment Tonight.

"I was there by myself, in my bedroom and I had a complete breakdown," said Brady. "Just go ahead and imagine for yourself a brother in his underwear, in his room, you got snot... and that birthday was the beginning of, 'OK, I've got to make a change.'"

He was careful to point out that this was simply the moment he knew that he couldn't allow himself to continue to wallow. The comedian explained that depression is a vicious cycle, where you tell yourself a lot of bad lies about yourself and you feel down. A depressed person continually internalizes the negative

thoughts until they eventually become true to you, and you no longer see the value in your own life.

"Some days, you don't want to move. You're in the darkness and as much as it hurts, you say to yourself, I'm going to sit right here. Why, because this is what I deserve because I am that horrible of a person."

## AR Darion Moses

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Airman Recruit Darion Moses, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, serves the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) in Pensacola, Florida.

As a student at NATTC Moses is serving among sailors and Marines developing the skills needed to be successful naval aviation warfighters.

Students at NATTC, are taught the requirements and skills needed to be successful in their new careers.

Moses joined the Navy five months ago. Today, Moses serves as an aviation ordnanceman.

"My family inspired me



to join the Navy," said Moses. "I wasn't doing anything with my life and I wanted to start it off right, so I joined the Navy."

According to Moses, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Fort Worth.

"Growing up in Fort Worth, I played sports and I

learned to work as a team," said Moses. "So, working as a team in boot camp came easy to me and I'm sure it will help me out in the fleet as well."

NATTC's mission is to provide world class professional aviation warriors to the Navy fleet supporting combat readiness anywhere on the globe, while taking good care of our people, families and being good neighbors and stewards in the city of Pensacola and the surrounding region.

The training center's leaders and experts develop, deliver and leverage technology to optimize performance of our Navy, Marine Corps and foreign na-


See MOSES, Page 5

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# Mass Shootings and Gun Laws. How Canada Does What America Won't

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

According to the Gun Violence Archive, 2022 has quickly become the year of Mass Shootings.

Researchers, who label mass shootings as incidents where four or more people are injured or killed (not including the shooter), noted that there have already been more than 231 mass shootings this year in the United States.

With an average of more than one mass shooting per day, there hasn't been a week in 2022 without at least one incident.

While America's lawmakers grapple with deep ties to the National Rifle Association and a reluctance to do much about the gun violence crisis that most recently resulted in the deaths of small children in Uvalde, Texas, and senior citizens at a supermarket in Buffalo, Canada has provided the blueprint to stop mass shootings.

As of May 1, 2020, the government north of the border said it has prohibited over 1,500 models of assault-style firearms and specific components of some newly prohibited firearms – including AR-15 and M4 weapons.

To help accomplish that, lawmakers provided a criminal code amnesty period that remains in effect until October 2023. The government designed the amnesty period to "protect individuals or businesses who, at the time the prohibition came into force, were in lawful possession of a newly prohibited firearm from criminal liability while they take steps to comply with the law."

Last month, Marco Men-

dicino, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, the Honorable Marco Mendicino, announced new and more stringent rules governing the sale or transfer of non-restricted firearms.

As of May 18, 2022, individuals and businesses transferring or selling a non-restricted firearm need to confirm the recipient's identity and check the validity of their gun license with the Registrar of Firearms before completing the transfer, including by providing the recipient's license number and any other information requested.

Canadian officials said the new rule would help prevent people who cannot have a firearm from getting one.

Further, firearms businesses must retain sales and inventory records related to non-restricted firearms.

"This will make it easier for law enforcement to trace crime guns. In addition, the records will be held by businesses — not the government — and the police will need reasonable grounds to get access to them, often with judicial authorization," Mendicino said.

"We are taking action to keep Canadians safe from gun violence. To that end, we are bringing common-sense regulations that strengthen public safety through validated ownership, transparent business records keeping, and license verification before purchasing a firearm," the public safety minister asserted.

"Today's regulations will help ensure that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands, assist police in tracing guns used in a crime, and are part of the broader strategy to keep communi-

ties safe."

Meanwhile, in America, the New York Times reported that mass shootings come against a worsening adolescent mental health crisis, one that predated the pandemic but intensified by Covid.

"Much of the despair among teenagers and young adults has been inwardly directed, with soaring rates of self-harm and suicide," the newspaper reported.

"In that sense, the perpetrators of mass shootings represent an extreme minority of young people, but one that nonetheless exemplifies broader trends of loneliness, hopelessness and the darker side of a culture saturated by social media and violent content."

In recounting mass shootings in America, the Times noted that, in addition to Buffalo and Uvalde, there was a mass shooting at a supermarket in Boulder, Colo., in March 2021 that the police said was carried out by a 21-year-old man.

There's also the massacre by a 21-year-old gunman targeting Hispanic shoppers at a Walmart in El Paso in August 2019 that resulted in 23 deaths.

Additionally, a 17-year-old student in Santa Fe, Texas, stood accused of shooting and killing eight students and two teachers in May 2018.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in February 2018, a 19-year-old former student killed 17 people.

Reportedly, only two of the 30 deadliest mass shootings recorded from 1949 to 2017 involved shooters younger than 21. The first was the massacre of 13 people by two

teenagers at Columbine High School in 1999, and the second came when a 20-year-old killed 27 people, most of them children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in 2012.

"How much more carnage are we willing to accept?" President Joe Biden pleaded as he asked Congress to produce and move new gun laws.

"Enough is enough," Biden declared. "Don't tell me raising the age won't make a difference."

The President said he wants Congress to restore bans on selling assault-style weapons with high-capacity magazines, or what Canada and its two-party government system have done.

"Much of the gap in how these two countries handle contentious policy questions comes down to something that can feel invisible amid day-to-day politicking, but maybe just as important as the issues themselves: the structures of their political systems," Journalist Max Fisher wrote for the New York Times.

Fisher noted that Canada operates under a parliamentary system. Its head of government, Justin Trudeau, is elevated to that job by the legislature, of which he is also a member, and which his party, in collaboration with another, controls.

"If Mr. Trudeau wants to pass a new law, he must merely ask his subordinates in his party and their allies to do it," Fisher wrote.

"There is no such thing as divided government and less cross-party horse-trading and legislative gridlock."

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## Adult survivors of childhood cancer often undertreated for cardiovascular risk factors

DALLAS (American Heart Association) — Adults who survive childhood cancer have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease than the general population, yet they are 80% more likely to be undertreated for several cardiovascular risk factors: hypertension (also called high blood pressure), diabetes and high cholesterol, according to new research published today in the Journal of the American Heart Association, an open access, peer-reviewed journal of the American Heart Association.

Previous research has shown that due to their exposure to chemotherapy and/or radiation, childhood cancer survivors may face up to a five-fold increased risk of cardiovascular disease and death, compared to the general population. Multiple studies have shown that most adult childhood cancer survivors report receiving only general medical care, not specific to their experience with cancer. Previous research also suggests that cancer survivors are not receiving recommended cardiovascular screenings in a timely manner due to limited awareness of future health complications by



survivors and health care professionals.

“These findings make underdiagnosis and undertreatment significant concerns for the estimated half a million childhood cancer survivors living in the United States,” said lead study author Eric J. Chow, M.D., M.P.H., an associate professor in clinical research and public health sciences at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle.

In this study, cardiovascular risk factor undertreatment was defined as being diagnosed with high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes yet still having higher-than-recommended levels of blood pressure, “bad” cholesterol, triglycerides or blood glucose. (No detail available about Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes diagnosis.)

Participants were recruited from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), a large study that includes

people who were diagnosed with cancer before age 21 between 1970 and 1999 at health care centers in the U.S. and Canada, and who survived at least five years. Between September 2017 and April 2020, researchers recruited from the pool of U.S.-based CCSS participants childhood cancer survivors who were at least 18 years old, free of heart disease or heart failure, living within 50 miles of nine major U.S. metropolitan areas (Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Columbus, Ohio). Those recruited were also taking part in a separate clinical trial testing the potential of a telehealth-care plan to improve cardiovascular outcomes among long-term survivors of childhood cancer. Among this group, which was 85% white adults and 57% women, the most common types of cancer were leukemia, lymphoma and bone cancer.

Researchers measured blood pressure, lipids, glucose and hemoglobin A1c levels in nearly 600 adults (median age 37 years) an average of 28 years after cancer diagnosis and obtained similar data on a comparison group of nearly

350 same-age adults without a history of cancer. The analysis found:

- Cancer survivors were more likely than those without a history of cancer to have hypertension (18% vs. 11%, respectively), abnormal lipid levels (14% vs. 4.9%, respectively) and diabetes (6.5% vs. 3.2%, respectively).

- Participants in both groups had similar rates of underdiagnosed hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes: 27.1% among cancer survivors and 26.1% among the comparison group. However, cancer survivors were 80% more likely to be undertreated for these conditions compared to their study counterparts.

“Serious heart disease is uncommon in young adults in the general population, which includes childhood cancer survivors, therefore, greater awareness of the significantly higher cardiovascular disease risk when there is a history of cancer is important,” Chow said. “Raising awareness among primary care professionals as well as improving survivors’ ability to self-manage their health may mitigate the increased risks. There are specialized heart disease risk calculators de-

signed for cancer survivors, and those may be more accurate in predicting future cardiovascular disease risk than risk calculators designed for the general population.”

The analysis also included the results of a self-reported questionnaire assessing medical history, such as cardiovascular health and treatment; diet, exercise and other lifestyle habits; and people’s belief in the ability to manage their own health.

Information on the comparison group of peers who had no history of childhood cancer came from the 2015-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, in which participants had standardized health examinations and in-home interviews, comparable to the questionnaire taken by the cancer survivors.

Other findings include:

- The most underdiagnosed and undertreated cardiovascular disease risk factors among the cancer survivors were hypertension at 18.9% and lipid disorders at 16.3%.

- Among the cancer survivors, men were twice as likely to be underdiagnosed and undertreated for the cardiovascular disease risk

factors; while survivors who were overweight or obese were 2-3 times more likely to be underdiagnosed and undertreated.

- Cancer survivors who had two or more unhealthy lifestyle factors, such as physical inactivity and low consumption of fruits and vegetables, were twice as likely to be undertreated than the comparison group.

The study also found that childhood cancer survivors who reported higher self-efficacy – a stronger belief in their ability to manage their own health – had 50% lower odds of undertreatment for the cardiovascular disease risk factors studied. “That perhaps is not surprising, yet it suggests that efforts to help survivors learn how to take greater ownership of their health conditions may help to improve longer term outcomes,” Chow said. “This has been shown in patients with other chronic health conditions outside of cancer as well.”

Among the study’s limitations are the potential for measurement error and misclassification among the cancer survivors and comparison group because of one-time health assessments.

## MOSES, from Page 2

tional students. We provide the most up-to-date and relevant training available to our sailors and Marines ensuring Naval aviation’s success.

Serving in the Navy means Moses is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America’s focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

“The Navy is important to national defense because we are the greatest sea power and we are a

formidable defense against foreign threats against this country,” said Moses.

Moses and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

“The accomplishment I’m most proud of so far is graduating boot camp with the battle flag,” said Moses.

As Moses and other sailors continue to train and perform the mission they are tasked with, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

“Serving in the Navy is

important to me because I wanted to prove I was capable of completing difficult challenges,” added Moses. “I’ve had a lot of family who have served in the military and making them proud gives me a sense of pride.”

The Naval Education and Training Command is the U.S. Navy’s Force Development pillar and largest shore command. Through its “Street to Fleet” focus, Naval Education and Training Command recruits civilians and transforms them into skilled warfighters ready to meet the current and future needs of the U.S. Navy.

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# A History of Hate: 'If emancipation came in Lincoln's America, why was it necessary to march in King's America?'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. has long examined America's hatred toward African Americans, recently noting a profound new rendering of the struggle by African Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counterrevolution that re-subjugated them, as seen through the prism of the war of images and ideas that have left an enduring stain on the American mind.

"The story of the abolition of slavery in the aftermath of the Civil War is familiar, as is the civil rights revolution that transformed the nation after World War II," Gates wrote in a white



Photo via NNPA

paper.

"But the century in between remains a mystery," he noted. "If emancipation came in Lincoln's America, why was it necessary to march in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s America?"

Further, 54 years after King's assassination, white supremacy remains on the rise with the merciless Tops

supermarket murders of 10 African Americans and even the heartless killings of 19 predominantly Latino students at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

HIT Strategies, Washington D.C.'s leading millennial and minority-owned public opinion research company, issued its latest survey of Black Americans,

"Reducing Racism and Discrimination."

The company said reducing racism and discrimination counts as the "number two" issue for Black voters, behind only inflation and previously COVID-19.

HIT officials noted that reducing racism consistently ranks among the top three priorities. Black voters want their elected leaders to address this.

"[The Topps Supermarket] shooting represented racism in its most violent and craven form," added Terrance Woodbury, founding partner at HIT Strategies.

"However, Black voters have long recognized how the culture-war politics and its racist rhetoric fuels animus toward Black

Americans. Black voters want their elected leaders to respond to racism head-on, not just in reaction to tragedies. This is a political and moral imperative."

One African American male told HIT researchers that "underneath the insurrection, which was the actual event, it was just white backlash. This was the same as the burning of Tulsa. This was the same as all the things."

An unidentified Black woman added: "I think with Donald Trump coming in and leaving, it woke up a lot of things that were buried, like racism, it's still alive."

Jeremy Clifford, founder, and CEO of Router CTRL, a fast-growing website in the technology market, in-

sisted that America's hate problem remains deep-rooted and complex.

"Several factors contribute to it, including our history, culture, and politics," Clifford stated. "America has a long history of hate. From the days of slavery to the Jim Crow era, from the Civil Rights Movement to today, America has seen its fair share of hate. And while we like to think that we've come a long way since then, the truth is that much of our history is still with us today."

Clifford continued, noting that "we live in a culture that is built on competition and individualism. We are a nation of winners and losers, and we often see

See HISTORY, Page 14

## Seven decades after first Black reporter covered the White House, the Black Press receives coveted credentials

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Seventy-two years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt invited Harry S. McAlpin Jr. of the National Negro Publishers Association to cover an Oval Office news conference, and 82-years after the founding of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press can freely cover the White House.

The NNPA has received a

hard pass, allowing near-unfettered access to the White House.

Called the ultimate White House credential, the hard pass allows on-demand access to the famed Pennsylvania Avenue complex.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association's Senior National Correspondent, Stacy Brown, has once again enabled our national trade association representing the Black Press of America, to make another historic yet contemporary step forward with the offi-

cial acquisition of the White House hard-pass," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

"The hard pass gives the NNPA daily access to the White House," Chavis remarked.

As a correspondent for the NNPA member newspaper, the Atlanta Daily World, McAlpin covered his first White House press conference in 1944.

However, the White House Correspondents Association vehemently objected to the African Ameri-

can journalist and routinely blocked him from covering the White House.

President Roosevelt intervened after a group of Black leaders expressed their frustration.

Still, the Association pushed back.

"The president could break the color line for his press conferences, but he could not rewrite the WH-CA's membership policies," George Condon, the author of a forthcoming work on the history of the Association, told NPR.

"They blackballed [McAlpin] from ever joining the Correspondents' Association or attending the group's annual dinner."

In 2014 the Association finally paid tribute to McAlpin, who died in 1985, with the first Harry S. McAlpin Jr. Scholarship awarded to a college student.

Earlier this year, the Association honored Alice Dunnigan and Ethel Payne at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington.

However, while honoring

the trailblazers, the Association failed to acknowledge Chavis and the NNPA, which purchased a table for ten at the dinner only to be issued two tickets and seated in the very back of the crowded ballroom.

Perhaps, with the coveted White House hard-pass acquisition, the Association and the rest of the press corps that covers the administration will show more deference to the NNPA and the Black Press of America, which celebrates its 195th anniversary in 2022.

## Trinity Basin Preparatory hosts evening at Dallas Heritage Village

Trinity Basin Preparatory is hosting its summer send-off at Dallas Heritage Village, located at 1515 South Harwood, Dallas, TX on June 9 from 4-8 p.m. The all-school event is the first of its kind and is an interactive, educational and fun family field trip for all 4,200 students enrolled at their seven campuses, their families, all teachers and their families and other families interested in enrolling at the

PreK-8th grade schools.

The afternoon will offer lots of activities for all ages, food, live entertainment, and access to community resources.

Trinity Basin Preparatory encompasses the idea that it "takes a village to raise a child." Local nonprofits that partner with the charter school will be at the event to exhibit services available to Trinity Basin Preparatory students and families.

Dallas Youth Sports, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Clayton After School Program, and Parents Advocating for Student Excellence (PASE) will be sharing information about resources available to the Trinity Basin Preparatory community.

The charter school district operates seven schools with 4,200 enrolled K-8 students in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, including three campuses in South Dallas

near the Dallas Heritage Village campus.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the end of another successful school year with our students, their families, our staff, and prospective students and families at Dallas' beloved Heritage Village," Director of Development Brandon Duck said. "Our staff, students, and families have worked hard and we look forward to welcoming them to an evening of fun

and community on the last day of the school year."

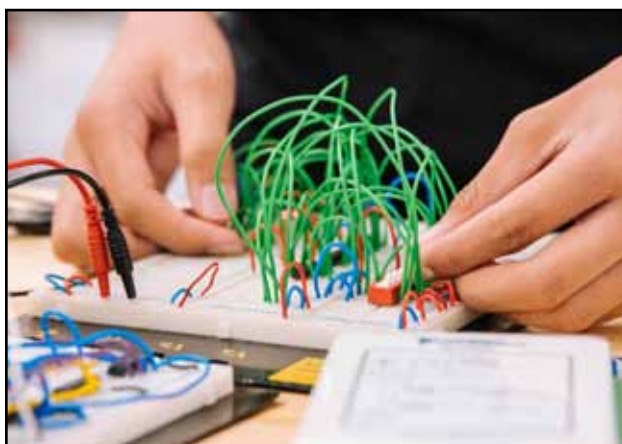
The event will allow current and prospective students, families, and staff to enjoy Dallas Heritage Village amenities through historical buildings and demonstrations to connect the classroom curriculum to the hands-on learning experience.

Dallas Heritage Village is excited to offer the Trinity Basin Preparatory commu-

nity a variety of hands-on experiences relative to the rich history of Texas. Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of historic buildings including the Section House, Farmstead, Schoolhouse, and Shotgun House. Trinity Basin Preparatory and the Village created an educational scavenger hunt, where the Village staff will be available to answer questions and provide support.

## Perot Museum Of Nature And Science launches Connecteen Initiative to empower high school students with in-demand STEM skills

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, in partnership with Lockheed Martin, is pleased to announce the launch of an educational and mentorship program – ConnectTEEN – to help combat the learning gap in North Texas and equip students with the tools to be knowledgeable, confident and motivated to pursue careers in STEM. In the United States, STEM jobs are expected to grow 10.5% between 2020 and 2030, and in Texas this number is even higher, almost 25%. Through programs such as this, the Perot Museum is committed to inspiring youth toward a lifelong love of science, in hopes of fostering one of the most talented and di-



Jeswin Thomas / Unsplash

verse STEM workforces in the country.

ConnectTEEN features monthly workshops as well as university campus and vocational school visits. Most importantly, with assistance from Lockheed Martin, the program offers mentor partnerships with industry profession-

als. Launched in January, the year-long pilot program gives high school students a remarkable opportunity to explore and deepen their interests and capabilities to flourish in STEM fields and prepares them with skills for the 21st century workforce.

“Real-life experience

and exposure to industry professionals are of the utmost importance for these young people to achieve success,” said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum. “Each of these mentors in the STEM industry understands the rigors and rewards of the profession. We believe these personal relationships will boost the students’ confidence and foster a relationship with a trusted advisor when navigating higher education and future careers.”

The program received an overwhelming response from students and staff at Dallas ISD’s Innovation Design Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) at James

W. Fannin. Additionally, Lockheed Martin fully embraced the program, providing thought leadership in building the curriculum as well as recruiting 25 employees as mentors – a higher number than expected – who represent diverse STEM careers and different backgrounds.

“At Lockheed Martin, we understand the important role that mentors play in the lives of young people,” said Scott Greene, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. “The mentoring partnership that we now have with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science allows our Lockheed Martin professionals to directly connect with

many young people in North Texas. Together with their mentors, these bright students will learn what it takes to be part of the next generation of engineers, scientists, technologists, mathematicians, and most of all, dreamers.”

The program kicked off with a parent-education orientation and a STEM career immersion program for students. On March 4, students experienced the first of multiple monthly workshops, engagingly led by local university and business professionals. The topics focused on workforce development, college preparation, financial literacy, inclusivity in STEM,

**See PEROT, Page 7**

## Biden-Harris administration announces the first session of the White House Internship Program; administration will pay interns for the first time in history

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Biden and Vice President Harris have announced the launch of the White House Internship Program and that, for the first time in history, White House interns will be paid. The first session will commence in Fall 2022.

“Too often, unpaid federal internships have been a barrier to hardworking and talented students and professionals, preventing them from contributing their talents and skills to the country and holding them back from federal career advancement opportunities,”



Photo via NNPA

administration officials wrote in an emailed release.

“This significant milestone of paying White House interns will help remove barriers to equal opportunity for low-income students and first-gener-

ation professionals at the beginnings of their careers and help to ensure that those who receive internships at the White House – and who will be a significant part of the leadership pipeline across the entire

federal government – reflect the diversity of America.”

According to the release, the funds for paying interns come from bipartisan legislation that the President was proud to sign earlier this year.

The funding provides for paid internships across the Executive Office of the President.

Interns participating in the White House Internship Program will support the White House Office and the Office of the Vice President.

The White House Internship Program is a public service leadership and development program that

provides emerging leaders with an opportunity to gain valuable skills while supporting the work of the White House and furthering the priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration, officials wrote.

Interested candidates can find the Program’s online application at WH.gov/intern. The website also features additional information about the Program, including a “Frequently Asked Questions” section. The application for the Fall 2022 session will open on Monday, June 6 and close on Friday, June 24.

Each year, leaders from around the country participate in the White House

Internship Program to dedicate their time, energy, and experience to serve the country through public service.

The Fall 2022 session will be hosted in-person on the White House campus.

Program leadership will continue to monitor the public health landscape related to COVID-19 and will adapt the Program’s approach to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. All interns will be required to attest to their vaccination status and must adhere to any White House COVID-19 protocols.

The Fall 2022 session

**See INTERNS Page 10**

## JUNETEENTH, from Page 1

According to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, watermelon represents a racist stereotype that originated in the Jim Crow era.

Juneteenth recognized the date in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans received official notice of their freedom.

That notice arrived two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to all enslaved people in Confederate states.

“First, the stupidity from Walmart and now the Indianapolis Children’s Museum thought it was okay to have a watermelon salad to cel-

ebate Juneteenth,” Twitter user @MrsCMitch wrote.

“This is unbelievably insensitive and inappropriate.”

Walmart came under fire earlier after the chain issued a new flavor of its ice cream and called it “Juneteenth.”

Immediately, Walmart received criticism for attempting to cash in on the newest holiday with the fla-

vors that included swirled red velvet cake and cheesecake.

“We will remove the items as appropriate,” Walmart officials said.

“Juneteenth holiday marks a celebration of freedom and independence. However, we received feedback that a few items caused concern for some of our customers, and we sincerely apologize.”

Bridge, an organization that promotes improving diversity and inclusion, called on Walmart to remove the ice cream flavors.

“Would you launch an ice cream called January 27? The day the world remembers the Holocaust. Or April 7, the day that memorializes the genocide in Rwanda. Of course not,” Bridge officials wrote in a letter to Walmart.

They also took Walmart to task for placing a trademark indication on the word “Juneteenth.”

“Placing a TM and claiming ownership of the word ‘Juneteenth’ further exacerbates the lack of understanding of laying claim to something that represents so much to an entire population,” they wrote.

“Juneteenth simply cannot be owned.”



# Carrollton-FB ISD to provide students free meals over summer break

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Student Nutrition Department, in partnership with the Texas Department of Agriculture, announces sponsorship of the Summer Meal Program. Healthy, FREE summer meals will be available at

the campuses on the dates and times listed below, for children 18 and younger, regardless of family/household income. No applications are needed for summer meals.  
\*Due to on-going construction at several cam-

puses, please check in with the school front office to enter the building.

Summer meals help children succeed by providing the nourishment they need

to return to school in the fall ready to thrive. For a listing of other meal sites

near you, text "FOOD" to 304-304, or visit [www.SummerFood.org](http://www.SummerFood.org).



Annie Spratt / Unsplash

## PEROT, from Page 6

trade industries and more. This year, students and mentors will visit local campuses including the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Woman's University, and they'll travel this summer to some of the state's top public STEM institutions, including Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. The program will also host tours of trade and technical schools, including Dallas College's Mountain View Campus, which offer a wealth of degree programs that lead to well-paying STEM careers.

Summer continues with intense STEM exploration of fundamental skills training, career visualization – beyond the stereotypical medical and engineer fields – and additional parent education to enlighten and address misconceptions regarding college applications and financial aid, paid vocational programs and other available resources.

After gaining valuable experiences, knowledge and relationships throughout the year, students will conclude the program in December, presenting at a culminating symposium.

"I am so thankful for our partners at Lockheed

Martin and IDEA, who are committed to these students' futures," said Jessica Chavez, Chief Learning Officer at the Perot Museum. "Although this year is a pilot program, our hope is to really grow this program, and our goal is for 100% of these students to attend higher education and 75% to pursue a career in STEM."

"As a transformation high school in Dallas ISD, the ConnectTEEN program at the Perot Museum has been an ideal partnership for our students. Allowing our students to learn more about STEM careers while also giving them valuable information on how to navigate the college process has opened so many possibilities," said Raymie Venable, principal of IDEA. "The ConnectTEEN program has ensured that our students that represent a diverse selection of our community are aware of the possibilities before them as they navigate their post-secondary choices. We are eternally grateful to partner with the Perot Museum to offer this once in a lifetime program to our high school students."

Plans are underway for next year's program, which will launch Fall 2022.

# ★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

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Marco Barrera  
Paisley Garrett  
Shadai Harrison  
Taniya Payne

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL:**  
Deidre Lewis  
Guadalupe Rosales  
JaMya Maryland  
Paris Blaylock

### NORTH DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL:

Abigail Galvan  
Alfredo Hernandez  
Analee Catalan  
Belia Sanchez-Booth  
Brenda Gochez-Menendez  
Cindy Gomez  
Daniel Perez-Martinez  
Deanna Choice  
Evelyn Casillas  
Flavia Santamaria  
Frances Ray  
Hailey Andrade  
Hennessy Meza  
Isis Balderas  
Ivan Barron  
Jacqueline Martinez  
Jamaree Riley  
Jesus Martinez  
Joel Rodriguez  
Julianna Serrano  
Kenya Hart  
Khylen Loya  
Kyler Bolden  
Lesley Aguilera  
Luis Lopez  
Lydia Rangel  
Macie Cisneros  
Na'Karia Applewhite  
Romika Nguyen  
Sean Trimble  
Sergiauona Anthony  
Shawnthy Pen  
Steven Williams  
Treneaja Baxter  
Yhurixi Rodriguez-Guerrero

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Angela Chavez  
Daisy Ramirez  
Evelyn Castro  
Fatima Castillo  
Gloria Torres  
Isabella Tames  
Jimena Ibarra  
Kate Alonzo  
Lizbeth Martinez  
Lourdes Randle  
Vanessa Villalobos  
Ximena De Leon  
Yessenia Gutierrez

### WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL:

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Alonzo Cortez  
Anyah Peters  
Benjamin Winslow  
Carter Vu  
Chloe Serna  
Emily Hebert  
Faith Frieling  
Juan Bermudez-Saenz  
Juan Martinez  
Lauren Castillo-Rodriguez  
Luisa Sukkar  
Melat Assefa  
Michael Rodriguez  
Natalia Ybarra  
Willam Barnett



# NDG Book Review: Great books to read for Juneteenth

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You weren't born knowing everything.

People had to tell you what you needed to know, and that's how you learn. You can guess sometimes, or figure other things out on your own but mostly, you've been told and then



Terri Schlichenmeyer

you know. So why not read these books about a fact that was unknown for

years...

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and freed the slaves, the word was spread far and wide... except in Texas. For more than two years after the signing, there were still people in bondage there. In "Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free"

by Alice Faye Duncan, art by Keturah A. Bobo (Tommy Nelson, \$17.99), you'll see what happened when those slaves learned, on Juneteenth 1865, that they were finally free.

In this book, kids will learn about Juneteenth, the woman whose activism ensured that it would be cel-

ebrated across the nation, and why that was important. Meant for kids ages 4 to 8, this book also has further information for grown-ups to help a child understand its meanings, along with a recipe for traditional Juneteenth red punch.

For early elementary-aged kids, "Free at Last:

A Juneteenth Poem" by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic (Union Square Kids, \$17.99) begins on the day when "The news arrived in Galveston." Here, however, only part of the story is told: kids don't much

See BOOKS, Page 13

## 'Juneteenth: Faith And Freedom' ready for viewing now on Youtube

What does Juneteenth reveal about the nature of the struggle for freedom? How did a bible that was used to justify slavery become an inspiration for liberation? In Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom, viewers are taken on a riveting journey that provides answers to these questions and more as it presents first-hand accounts of descendants of those emancipated during this significant time in our nation's history. The film is available June 7, 2022 on YouTube.

Juneteenth is the first



Courtesy photos

new federal holiday created by the United States Congress in nearly four decades. As interest in

this holiday grows, Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom is an illuminating tool for deep understanding and

thoughtful perspectives about the complex history of race, slavery, and faith in America.

"As we began our research, we learned more about the depth of faith stories and biblical convictions included in the first celebration of the day and the many subsequent celebrations. We want to make sure that the Christian faith roots and worldview of the men and women who began celebrating this day are not lost in celebrations of the holiday. In our research, we also learned an

interesting fact: Ms. Opal Lee, who urged Congress to recognize Juneteenth, is a faithful follower of Jesus and reader of Our Daily Bread," says Dr. Matt Lucas, CEO and president of Our Daily Bread Ministries.

In Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom, Our Daily Bread Ministries' Rasool Berry brings viewers on a journey of discovery as he explores how Juneteenth unfolded in Galveston, Texas, where the celebration originated. Berry visits historical sites and talks to scholars, advo-

cates, direct descendants of formerly enslaved people, as well as the "grandmother of Juneteenth," Ms. Opal Lee. They uncover what actually happened on June 19, 1865 and discuss the community response, the aftermath of events, and what happens next.

These direct accounts are priceless pieces of American history weaved together to tell a story of faith, hope, resilience, and perseverance. Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom is emo-

See FILM, Page 12

## DOING THE RIGHT THING

"The time is always right to do what is right." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve Black children living in foster care.**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, June 23

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

**Corey Anthony**, Senior VP, Chief Diversity and Development Officer, AT&T  
Volunteer Advocate and Past Chair, Dallas CASA

**Priscilla Anthony**, Volunteer Advocate, Dallas CASA

**Cynt Marshall**, CEO, Dallas Mavericks  
Chair, Dallas CASA

To register for this online event, visit [dallascasa.org](http://dallascasa.org).

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# 'A Woman Ain't I - A Depiction of Sojourner Truth' presented by History At Play, LLC in virtual performance June 20

A Woman Ain't I, A Depiction of Sojourner Truth, depicts living historian Kathryn Woods, in a one-woman performance, memorializing one of the most significant figures in American History. In this special event, presented by History At Play™, LLC (HAP), join Sojourner near the end of her life, as she recalls her early days as a child, born a slave in New York and who, with the help of God, renamed herself Sojourner Truth to walk away from slavery.



Sojourner's identity blossoms as an evangelist, abolitionist, and seeker for the rights of women. Kathryn Woods breathes life into Sojourner's own words and



Courtesy images

infuses the performance with spiritual music Sojourner may have sung to reinvigorate the life of this inspiring spiritual leader. This LIVE, VIRTUAL pro-

gram brings the vibrancy of theatrical history and educational escapism direct to your screen.

Meet Sojourner through the eyes of Kathryn Woods, a native Bostonian, who has been performing since the 1970's. She was seen in Coming Through Slaughter (Theaterworks), Pins and Needles (People's Theater), and Ole Sis Goose (Boston University's Wheelock Family Theater). She toured Three Minutes to Midnight and Are You Ready My Sister with the Underground

Railroad Theater Company, as well as Intro to Shakespeare with R.O.S.E. and Shakespeare and Company.

Kathryn deconstructed a marriage in Smitty's Blues at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh and celebrated the women who worked in the shipyards of Charlestown during WW2 in S.W.O. N. Songs, presented at Charlestown Working Theater and the Mayakofsky Theater in Moscow. A Woman Ain't I has taken her to forty-three states and

is archived on C-Span.

The performance will be held Monday, June 20 – 7:30pm ET (6:30 pm CST). The running time is approximately 45 minutes, followed by Q&A. Appropriate for all ages. This production is based exclusively on factual events and primary sources.

HAP has garnered nationwide acclaim for their Immersive Living History Experiences, chronicling the lives of legendary figures who changed society.

## Free programming returns June 10 to the Leonhardt Lagoon in Fair Park

Fair Park First, the non-profit overseeing the management of Fair Park, in partnership with Biederman Redevelopment Ventures Corporation (BRV) and OVG360 (formerly Spectra), will host Lagoon Days, a series of free programs on Fridays and Saturdays from June 10 until July 30 at Leonhardt Lagoon in Fair Park.

"In 2019, we began host-

ing free programs and activities to make Fair Park a more active and inviting place for our neighbors," said Alyssa Arnold, Director of Strategic Initiatives. "This new series is a continuation of this effort in preparation for the opening of the Community Park in 2024."

Lagoon Days will include kid's crafts, art workshops for teens and adults, yoga,

music and movement classes for toddlers, instrument building, drum circles, bird watching, puppet shows, lawn games, food trucks, and more. All programming will be free and open to the public on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The Leonhardt Lagoon is

See LAGOON, Page 11



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# Irving's Toyota Music Factory moves under Brookfield portfolio

The City of Irving has a new partner to manage the Toyota Music Factory project located in Irving's entertainment center. On May 18, the Irving City Council approved the transfer of operations to a company under the umbrella of global property asset manager Brookfield Asset Management. Brookfield is one of the largest global investors in real estate and currently owns and operates numerous iconic mixed use and entertainment developments, including Fifth and Broadway in Nashville, Tennessee and the Wellmont Theater in Montclair, New Jersey.

"Brookfield has significant experience managing premier properties, and Irving's entertainment center will greatly benefit from Brookfield's knowledge

and resources to take the Toyota Music Factory to the next level," said Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer. "We are excited to see Brookfield's vision to enhance the development and drive visitors and residents to enjoy the full experience that the Toyota Music Factory has to offer, from concerts and special events to a variety of high-caliber restaurants."

With a commitment to creating vibrant, sustainable communities, Brookfield's real estate footprint in Texas includes significant and successful housing, retail and office developments in Austin, Dallas and Houston.

"Entertainment Center's like Toyota Music Factory are important civic assets for our communities," said Chase Martin, Senior Vice

President – Investments Brookfield. "We look forward to working closely

with the City and community on ways to elevate the Toyota Music Factory ex-

perience."

Brookfield is expected to take over operations of the

Irving Toyota Music Factory before the end of May 2022.

## INTERNS, from Page 6

will be a 14-week program, beginning on Monday, September 12 and ending on Friday, December 16. Selected applicants will be notified the week of August 8.

Program participants must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years or older before the first day of the Program, and meet at least one of the three following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree program at a college, community college, or university (two- to four-year institution)

- Graduated from an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at a college, community college, or university (two- to four-year institution) no more than two years prior to the first day of the Program

- A veteran of the United States Armed Forces who possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent and has served on active duty, for any length of time, no more than two years prior to the first day of the Pro-

gram

"President Biden and Vice President Harris have committed to building an Administration that looks like America, believing that qualified people from every background and walk of life should have equal opportunity to serve our Nation," administration officials stated.

"That commitment is reflected in each White House Internship Program class, and all who are interested and meet the established criteria are highly encouraged to apply."

The White House Internship Program application and additional information about the Program can be found at [WH.gov/intern](http://WH.gov/intern).

Prospective candidates with questions about the Program, as well as college/university administrators, faculty, campus leadership, and others interested in more information to share with their communities can reach out to the White House Internship Program team at [internship@who.eop.gov](mailto:internship@who.eop.gov).



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# AARP Texas urges consumers to prepare for high electricity costs this summer

AUSTIN, Texas – As temperatures rise and Texans rely heavily on air conditioning in their homes, AARP Texas seeks to educate consumers, including older Texans, on how to protect themselves against the rising costs of electricity and other utility expenses.

“With humidity and temperatures escalating, no one should have to worry about how to stay cool this summer,” said AARP Texas Director Tina Tran.

Tran said AARP Texas is raising awareness among consumers on how they can best prepare their homes for extremely warm weather and potentially higher utility bills, and the association is encouraging participation in assistance programs available to many Texans.

“Utility rates are an essential pocketbook issue for Texans, especially those 50-plus,” Tran said. “Too often, older Texans must choose between paying their utility bill and paying for their prescriptions. The summer weather – not



Robert Linder / Unsplash

unlike the winter heating season – is going to be a challenge. Knowing where to go for assistance is more important than ever.”

AARP Texas offers the following tips and information to help with utility expenses in Texas.

Apply for home energy assistance

The Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is a utility assistance program designed to assist low-income households in meeting their immediate energy needs and to control energy costs through energy education. Utilities include electricity, gas, and propane. In crisis-

related circumstances, the program may assist in repairing or replacing cooling and heating systems. All participating households receive energy education to include energy-saving tips for the home.

Households with elderly, disabled, and young children (ages 5 and under) receive priority for financial assistance through CEAP. Non-eligible households are referred to other resources within their community.

Get utility assistance from CEAP by visiting the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' page at: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/ceap/index.htm>

[www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/ceap/index.htm](https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/ceap/index.htm) or by calling 877-399-8939 or 877-541-7905.

Attain Critical Care or Chronic Condition Status

Those who need power to their home because of a medical condition can apply for Critical Care or Chronic Condition status. Texas residents with a medical condition that could become life-threatening if a home were to lose power, may qualify for a designation that provides support services. These designations can provide additional flexibility to avoid disconnection for non-payment. They do not guarantee uninterrupted service during outages. For information, reach your transmission distribution utility through your electric provider.

Seek a deferred payment plan if facing disconnection for non-payment

A deferred payment plan is a formal arrangement

between a customer and an electric provider. It allows customers to pay an outstanding bill in installments. Certain criteria must be met; and once entering into a deferred payment plan with a retail electric provider, you can be prevented from switching to another retail electric provider until an outstanding balance is paid.

Contact your utility company to check eligibility for assistance programs

Call your electric and natural gas distribution company to learn more about company-specific assistance that may be available. Some utilities have customer assistance programs, usage reduction programs and hardship programs, sometimes run by community organizations.

Enroll in budget billing

To avoid seasonal increases and other price spikes, some utility companies allow customers to

spread costs throughout the year by basing monthly payments on a household's annual usage. Contact your electric and natural gas companies for more information.

Weatherize with low-cost conservation measures

There are some simple but effective ways to keep temperatures controlled in your home.

- Install door sweeps;
- Weatherproof doors and windows;
- Caulk cracks around doors and windows;
- Have your air conditioning and heating systems regularly serviced and repaired.
- Replace old appliances with new energy efficient models. Look for the Energy Star label.
- Find additional weatherization tips here: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/ceap/tips.htm>

## LAGOON, from Page 9

Fair Park's most park-like space, and these programs are part of a larger effort to improve the Lagoon. Over the next two months, Fair Park First will make upgrades to the Lagoon, including water quality improvements, lighting, movable furnishings, and the introduction of more native plantings. These physical improvements will help magnify the Lagoon as a natural asset for community members to enjoy throughout the year.

“Leonhardt Lagoon is a treasured area of Fair Park and has always been a space within the Park where people come for relaxation,” said Ashley Langworthy, Director of Western Region at BRV. “We want to give this area its due with physical enhancements and community programming to continue putting the park

back in Fair Park.”

For more information, including a full schedule of programs, visit [www.fairparkdallas.com/events](http://www.fairparkdallas.com/events).

In January 2019, Fair Park First, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, assumed management of Fair Park from the City of Dallas in partnership with OVG360 (formerly Spectra).

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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)



# After years of payments, Black student loan balances go up – not down

*Over half of federal loan debt held by borrowers with a net worth less than \$6,370*

By Charlene Crowell

With every passing day, urgency grows to cancel the nation's \$1.7 trillion student loan debt. The current federal pause on payments and interest rates will expire on August 31. If no federal action is taken before that date, 15 million borrowers already struggling with the unfortunate combination of unsustainable debt and little or no wealth will face a daunting challenge with no financial relief in sight.

New research zeroes in on America's student debt dilemma. It also details worsening racial wealth and gender gaps that plague people who despite years of faithful loan payments find themselves now owing more rather than less: nearly 75 percent of Black borrowers and 63 percent of Latino borrowers have seen their student loan balances grow rather than shrink, compared to 51 percent of white borrowers.

Necessary Relief: Substantial Cancellation Will Ease the Burden of Af-

fordable Student Debt and Boost the Economy, the just-released report from the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), augments an analysis of more than 360,000 credit records of student borrowers with a national series of focus groups and new analyses from the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). The report's multiple findings are as startling as they are widespread.

Although Black America represents 12 percent of the nation's population, we hold 22 percent of all federal loan debt, affecting multiple generations – including retirees. CRL found that more than half of federal student loan debt is held by borrowers with a net worth less than \$6,370.

Moreover, because Black students are more likely to enroll in for-profit academic institutions with lower degree completion rates, debt repayment is still required for an education that did not provide an earnings boost.

"Americans who work, pay taxes and tried to do the right thing have been used

as cash cows to enrich unaccountable investors and corporate executives," said Jaylon Herbin, student loan outreach and policy manager at CRL. "The true victims of these abusive loan schemes deserve to have this government-imposed weight removed from their shoulders."

The worst ratios of income to debt are found in Black-majority neighborhoods, where the average student debt balance is 102 percent. Low-income senior citizens struggling with student debt on average have a debt balance ratio of 127 percent and face a growing trend of retirement benefits garnished for lack of repayment.

The effects of historic racial wealth disparities result in Black students who pursue higher education relying more heavily on loans than family support to finance their degrees. As a result, over half of all families with Black heads of household aged 25–40 have student debt, and 85% of Black graduates in 2016 took on debt to finance their undergraduate degree.

The report also finds that Black women today hold median student debt burdens that are two-thirds higher than that held by white men. The lingering effects of pay discrimination affecting even highly educated Black women translates into earnings of only 65 cents for every dollar earned by white males.

CRL's report also addresses the competing proposals on student debt forgiveness.

"Cancelling \$10,000 of federal student loans forgives only 22 percent of Black borrowers' federal student loan debt and 28% of Latino debt," states the report. "In contrast, cancelling \$50,000 forgives more than 70 percent of these groups' student loan debt."

On May 27, a 529-member coalition of diverse interests urged President Joe Biden and Vice President

Kamala Harris to exercise executive authority to forgive \$50,000, an amount that would be proportional to the burden now carried.

"Black borrowers report that their student loan debt often feels like a life sentence even if they use relief programs like Income-Driven Repayment because they watch the amount owed balloon over time," states the coalition letter. "Student debt cancellation has the potential to increase the net wealth of Black households and could even help reduce the racial wealth gap."

"We call on you to deliver on the promise of the Biden-Harris Racial Economic Equity plan by cancelling federal student debt by executive action immediately, concluded the coalition that includes the American Association of University Women, Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Financial Reform, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, National Action Network, NAACP, National Urban League, League of Latin American Citizens, and CRL.

Another coalition member, the National Consumer Law Center, challenged the White House in similar words.

"Cancellation should also be sufficient in amount to provide meaningful relief to all borrowers, including Black borrowers who shoulder an average of \$24,000 more in student loan debt than white students four years after graduating college."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

## DUALITY, from Page 6

tional, evocative, inspirational, and educational; it is necessary viewing for groups and individuals interested in the history of Juneteenth, and its vital intersection with the Christian faith.

"The first celebration of what has become known as Juneteenth took place at a church in Galveston, and I discovered that people who were closest to it understood their emancipation on spiritual terms. To really understand that story, we need to grasp their perspective on their own emancipation. The church is where the story starts, but that's not where the faith component ends. The role of the Black church in establishing communities

was really vital, I discovered," says Berry.

Directed by Ya'Ke Smith, a rising voice in independent cinema who is celebrated for his "unflinching and veracious style of storytelling," Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom is presented by the Our Daily Bread Voices Collection and Our Daily Bread Media in association with Exodus Filmworks and the Jude 3 Project.

Smith says, "You can't tell the story of Juneteenth without faith playing a prominent role, because faith is central to the narrative. It was in the songs sung, it was in the heart of everyone who escaped a plantation and ran towards freedom, it has always

been the one thing that the oppressed had access to and that no one could take from them. Faith for Black peoples was, is, and will always be the unspoken language of freedom and survival. It is the Juneteenth story."

There are two versions of the trailer for the film available:

- 2 minute trailer: <https://youtu.be/xa4txHtKIps>

- 30 second trailer: <https://youtu.be/0HakpRew4Kc>

Please visit <https://youtu.be/YmjuDxKTzzg> to view the full film on YouTube.

The Our Daily Bread Voices Collection also created supplemental Juneteenth resources available at [www.experiencevoices.org](http://www.experiencevoices.org).

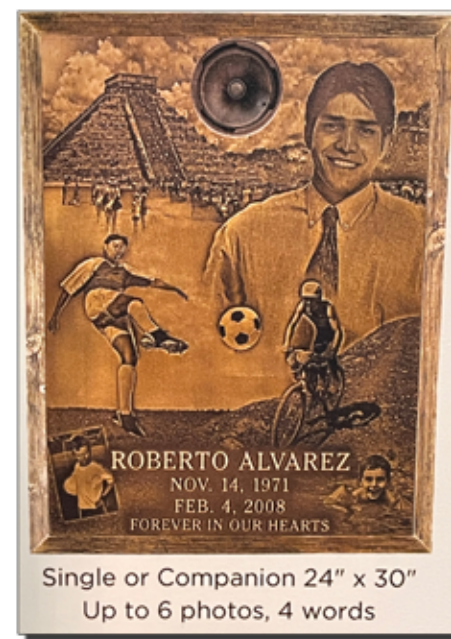
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# Despite apathy, Black voters urged not to sit out midterms

The failure of Congress to pass legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act have frustrated African Americans.

With new voter suppression laws, the leaked Roe V. Wade opinion, and the assault on many other rights, some question whether the voting bloc that allowed Democrats to take the White House and control both houses of Congress will abandon the polls during the midterm election.

"Black voters are understandably frustrated with the lack of reform around voter rights, but the lack of success with this is due to actions by Republicans, not Democrats," insisted Dr. Michal Strahilevitz, the director of the Elfenworks Center for Responsible Business and marketing professor at Saint Mary's College of California.

"Black voters are far

more pragmatic than most segments of the Democratic voter base. I expect them to show up not so much to reward Democrats for their lackluster success as to limit the power Republicans have to stop the necessary reforms," Strahilevitz continued.

"In short, black voters are not just a loyal part of the Democratic base, and they are a very practical one too."

Daniel Chan, chief technology officer at Marketplace Fairness, added that Black voters have several concerns that Democrats haven't addressed adequately.

"These include police reform, voting rights, and economic inequality. If they do not turn out to vote in the midterms, the Democrats could lose control of Congress," Chan offered.

"The party has plans to address some of these concerns, but more needs

to be done. Black voters are an essential part of the Democratic coalition, and it is important that the party does more to address their concerns," he concluded.

The Black Lives Matter co-founder who now leads Black Futures Lab, Alicia Garza, observed the strict voter requirements that include restrictions for returning mail-in ballots.

Noting the unique challenges faced by Black voters, Black Futures Lab partnered with other groups to

look closer at vote-by-mail in three states, Alabama, Nevada, and Texas.

"The first solution and probably the only solution to turn the tide of the ongoing and multiple assaults on our rights is to build independent progressive Black political power," Garza asserted.

"We must equip Black voters with the tools necessary to be powerful. Unfortunately, black voters are targeted by misinformation and disinformation every

day," she determined.

"In 2020, Black voters were getting messages online telling them not to go to the polls, so we must make sure that our people can get to the polls and challenge the laws and policies that keep us from making important decisions. Black voters are kept from being powerful on purpose, by policies and the conservative movement has designed."

Krystal Leaphart of Black Girls Vote said her

organization begins engaging young girls as early as middle school with the mantra that "our vote is our voice."

"We target all age groups and communities of Black girls, and we seek to educate and empower Black girls. However, we must make sure that those on the margins are fully engaged," Leaphart stated.

"Many young people are shocked at the amount of

See MIDTERMS, Page 14

## BOOKS, from Page 8

backstory; the Emancipation Proclamation is never mentioned. Instead, the story is very simplified, bypassing Emancipation in favor of more personal stories, a wide variety of reactions that former slaves might have felt upon hearing the news, and how Texas' newly-freed Black citizens likely would have celebrated their freedom. Like the Duncan story, this book has a nice author's note for parental guidance, and gorgeous illustrations that perfectly evoke the poem as it's told.

Older children — those who are well beyond picture books — will find a wealth of information inside "What Is Juneteenth?" by Kirsti Jewel, illustrated by Manuel Gutierrez (Penguin Kids, \$5.99).

Unlike the above books, this one begins with a quick and basic history lesson that starts with the Middle Passage. Jewel then quickly takes kids through a few pages about Abraham

Lincoln and slavery just before and during the Civil War. It's not until then that she explains where former-slaves went once they were freed, what they did to be reunited with their families, and what it must've been like for Texas slaves to realize that freedom had been withheld from them for more than two years.

Jewel goes forward to explain more of Black history up through modern times, including the story of Opal Lee and her efforts to place Juneteenth firmly in the nation's consciousness. Kids also get brief biographies of notable Black Americans along the way, and there's a handy timeline for reference. This, and the lack of overgeneralizing, make this books perfect for kids ages 7-to-14.

And if these books on Juneteenth aren't enough, then ask your librarian or bookseller for more. They'll help you find everything.



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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.

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- 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.



# Angels do Play Harps and I Have Proof

By James L. Snyder

A few weeks ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to me with a question. I'm always very cautious whenever that happens because it could be a trap.

"Next Saturday I have to go and pick up something. It's about an hour away, and I wonder if you could come with me?"

This is a new one. So I asked her, "What are you going to be picking up?"

That's a straightforward question with no strings attached.

She looked at me for a

few moments and finally said, "It's a secret, and I don't want to tell you yet."

That was enough to put me on my guard. A secret? What kind of a secret could this be?

So I ask her, "What is the secret?"

She didn't respond right away, but finally, she said very soberly, "I don't want to tell you right now. It's a secret, and you'll understand when we get there."

I don't mind secrets as long as they are my secrets. But when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a secret, the red flags begin waving.

Thinking about it for a few moments, I thought I should go along with her, so I said, "If you need me to go with you, I'll be glad to go."

Hoping to trip her up, I said, "And what is the secret?"

She looked at me, smiled, and walked away.

For her to have a secret and then want me to help her facilitate that secret without telling me what it is, is beyond my pay scale. As long as we've been married, I've never heard her ask for this kind of favor.

Of course, this kind of favor could work in my favor

down the line. Whenever I want something, I could always say, "Do you remember that secret I helped you with a few years ago?" I'm sure I could use it for some value at the proper time.

For the last few weeks, I noticed she's been searching for things on her computer, but there's no way in the world I'm going to get on her computer and try to figure out what she was searching for.

Finally, the Saturday came, and she said, "Are you ready to go?"

"And," I said staggeringly, "what are we going for?"

"You'll find out in due time."

I didn't know what I was in for, and I did not know how to prepare for it. I'm not very good at handling secrets, especially if they're not my secrets.

We finally arrived at our destination, and my wife parked her van there was a lady on the sidewalk waiting for us.

My wife looked at me and said, "That's the lady who has my secret."

We got out of the van and I walked rather slowly toward the lady, not knowing if I should shout or run. She did not look like a danger-

ous lady with a dangerous secret, but I was going to be cautious nevertheless.

We greeted her, and my wife introduced me to her; then we walked to the back of her van, and I found out what that secret was.

I didn't quite know how to handle the secret or what to make of it, but I just smiled and helped transfer this "secret" from the lady's van to my wife's van.

As the transfer took place, my jaw dropped. I really could not believe what I was seeing. There was a harp and all the things that

See ANGELS, Page 15

## MIDTERMS from Page 13

power that we collectively have," Leaphart continued. "When we engage young Black girls, they are excited to vote, and the earlier we get to people and get them excited about the process and get them civically en-

gaged, the better we will be."

Leaphart noted that issues affecting adults also bother the young.

"They are dealing with many the same issues that are not restricted to adults,"

Leaphart asserted.

"They are dealing with reproductive justice issues, Black girl pushout, and overcriminalization. But hearing that those issues can be dealt with at the polls and talking to elected officials have them excited."

In a radio interview, Democratic Strategist Karen Finney implored all to understand what was at stake during the 2022 midterms.

"It's very clear in terms of the GOP candidates who emerged – one of the big things we saw is that people

who were peddlers of The Big Lie, deniers of the 2020 election, seem to do pretty well, regardless of Donald Trump," Finney told radio personality Charles Ellison on his Reality Check show.

"That tells you a lot about what their agenda would be if they win. Voters came out

in record numbers in 2020, and we did something extraordinary," Finney recounted.

"We're going to have to do it again in 2022 if we want to keep America moving away from what I saw as a very divisive destruction of the Trump years."

## HISTORY, from Page 5

others as threats to our success. This can lead to fear and suspicion, which can turn into hate."

"Finally, our politics also contribute to our hate problem. Our political system is based on a winner-take-all. We are a country divided between red and blue, and we often see those on the other side as our enemies. This division can lead to anger and hate."

TEDx speaker Milagros Phillips said she believes America repeatedly looks in the wrong areas to solve its hate history.

"Whenever something racially charged happens, everyone turns to people of color to solve it. Racism is a problem for people of color. It is not the problem of people of color," Phillips asserted.

"Hundreds of years of racial conditioning, through violence, scapegoating, and the dehumanization of Black and Brown people have led to the anger, hatred, and dysfunction we experience today.

"But don't be fooled. That hatred is not today. It's hundreds of years in the making and practice. Proof of that is the lynching and burnings that have continued."

Author and human rights activist Tara Teng suggested that America has not solved its hate problem because the nation hasn't learned how to reconnect with humanity.

"We crave power more than we crave connection to our fellow humans, and this same misalignment of priorities is what America was built upon," Teng determined.

"It is our origin story. From colonization and genocide to slavery, segregation, and Jim Crow, America has taken every opportunity to use the body as justification for oppression and cruelty."

Teng continued:

"In the name of power and supremacy, we look to 'the good old days,' an idealized past in which tradition and nostalgia were

built on the backs of body-based oppression – legislating racism, ableism, and homophobia against anyone who was not powerful and white.

"These power struggles are why Critical Race Theory is banned in schools, legislation is debated in the halls, and bodies are targeted by gun violence in the streets. Our hate has become embodied within us and because some benefit from it, we refuse to spit the poison out of our mouths."

What can America do to ease its fears?

Phillips, the TEDx speaker, said treating the trauma would help.

"These horrific things happen to people of color, but no one moves in with the cadre of psychiatrists to treat the trauma," Phillips remarked.

"We should also treat for justice. White perpetrators of violence are treated differently than perpetrators of color. A white mass shooter can be captured alive and not even handcuffed. Soon after they are captured, the news quickly announces

they have a mental health condition.

"Meanwhile, a perpetrator of color is more likely to end up shot dead in a confrontation, and rarely is their mental health part of

their defense."

Phillips concluded that self-care could help Black Americans in particular.

"Because there is very little treatment for Black people's continual trauma,

we will have to learn to self-care," Phillips maintained.

"There are some wonderful exercises to help with anxiety, fear, and coming down from trauma."

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# Four Rules To Live By (Drink, Steal, Swear, and Lie)



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

With Summer almost here and lives are being changed each day because of graduation (a milestone in someone's life; with decisions to make: Do I go to college, trade school or go directly into the workforce.)

Some people may move into a new house, move to a new city, or a new state. Some are getting married, etc. I thought I would leave you with a few things to ponder.

Drink from the "everlasting cup" every day. Steal a moment to help someone that is in worse shape than you are. Swear that you will be a better person today than yesterday. And last, but not least, when you lie down at night thank God that He loves and care about you.

Another version of: Test of Fire (Action and Reaction.) Take a piece of wax, a morsel of meat, a handful of sand, a pinch of clay and some wood shavings and put them on a fire.

The wax melts; the meat fries; the sand dries up; the clay hardens; the shavings blaze. Although they are subjected to the small fire, each of the objects reacts in a different way.

This is a dramatic reminder of how individuals also react differently to the same circumstances. Subjected to hardship and despair, one person grows stronger, while others weaken or wither away.

One person hears the Word of God and is made better. Others hear the same message and grow angry and rebellious. Let us take heed how we respond to the action of God in our lives.

Help Wanted, Inquire Above: God is hanging out the "Help Wanted" sign. He is not looking for more people to serve as critics; there are already too many people who have taken that job.

God does not need any

self-inflated people who waste their time trying to establish the order of importance of everybody.

The job openings that God has available are for stewards. The people who apply for this position do not need to be highly skilled; neither do they have to have a history of great success.

What they need is a commitment to be faithful. God will place certain job responsibilities in the hands of His stewards, with each job suited to the worker. God will work side by side with His stewards.

There always will be an opening for the person who is sincerely interested. The reward for stewards is great; it may not be imme-

diate, but the reward will have lasting significance. Put your trust in God, believing that God will reward you.

Know Your Limitations: We can easily become discouraged in the face of our limitations. Often we feel that we could be happier and more effective if God only would resolve certain persistent problems for us.

These thorns can threaten our faith if we allow them to raise questions of God's care for us. At the same time, however, the fact that we are able to keep pressing forward despite these obstacles reveals God's power and sufficient grace working through our inadequacies.

Viewed from this angle, we can embrace hardship with the confidence that everything that happens to us can serve a long-term benefit within God's larger plan for our lives. This is part of what it means to live by faith, not by sight.

As we face new challenges in life it is good to remember the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr. "God, give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other."

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in June 2015.)

## ANGELS, from Page 14

went with it. The secret was my wife had just purchased a professional harp. I did not know what she was going to make of it, but our travel home was very interesting as she described this new interest to me in detail.

In the next several weeks, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage learned how to play the harp. She watched a bunch of videos and was quite a fast learner.

She played the piano for years and did it for all our church services as long as

I knew her. From what she told me, playing the piano helped her learn how to play the harp.

Every time I came home, I walked into the house and she was sitting there with her harp playing it. I discovered she was quite good with this harp as I listened to it.

I did not know very much about this kind of an instrument; as far as I was concerned, only angels played harps in heaven, which got me wondering.

Is there another secret that I don't know about?

Could she be playing this harp, preparing me for heaven?

I know my wife knows everything, and maybe there is this other secret she's not telling me for a reason.

One consolation is she's not playing fireballs. I can handle the harp preparing me for heaven, so I just sit back every time she played and enjoyed it.

After all, angels do play harps, and my wife is getting better at it every day.

As she was playing her

harp I thought of a verse of Scripture. "I will also praise thee with the psalter, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel" (Psalms 71:22).

Is going to be a wonderful time in heaven as we gather together listening to the Angels play their hearts as we worship the Lord together.

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