



North Dallas Gazette

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Justice Department announces investigation of the Louisiana State Police

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Justice has opened a pattern or practice investigation into the Louisiana State Police (LSP) to assess whether the law enforcement agency uses excessive force and whether it engages in racially discriminatory policing.

According to a news release, the investigation will include a comprehensive review of LSP policies, training, supervision, and force investigations, as well as LSP's systems of accountability, including misconduct complaint intake, investigation, review, disposition, and discipline.

"Protecting the civil rights of all Americans and building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve are among the Justice Department's most important responsibilities," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in the release.

"This investigation, like all of our pattern or practice investigations, will seek to promote the transparency, accountability, and public trust that is essential to public safety."



The investigation will include a comprehensive review of LSP policies, training, supervision, and force investigations, as well as LSP's systems of accountability, including misconduct complaint intake, investigation, review, disposition, and discipline. (Photo via NNPA)

The DOJ said it's conducting the investigation pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which prohibits state and local governments from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives individuals of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law.

The statute allows the DOJ to remedy such misconduct through civil litigation, and law enforcement practices under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, as well as under the

Safe Streets Act of 1968 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Officials called the investigation separate from any federal criminal investigation of LSP troopers.

Before the announcement, DOJ officials informed Governor John Bel Edwards, Colonel Lamar Davis, and Deputy General Counsel Gail Holland of the investigation.

According to the news release, each pledged to cooperate with the investigation.

As part of the investigation, DOJ

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People In The News ...



Terriekka Cardenas



Hon. Helen Giddings

NDG Quote of the Week: "We will all, at some point, encounter hurdles to gaining access and entry, moving up and conquering self-doubt; but on the other side is the capacity to own opportunity and tell our own story."
—Stacey Abrams

Terriekka Cardenas

Terriekka Cardenas is the President and CEO of Perceptive Engineering and Construction Services, LLC (PECS) in Dallas, TX, a full-service engineering and construction management firm.

The firm was founded in 2015 and was named AEC firm of the year for 2019. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Yellow Belt.

She is also a certified quality professional, proj-



ect manager and computer-aided drafting designer. She has worked in the industrial manufacturing and construction industry for over 15 years in varied capacities and department leadership roles.

Within these roles, Terriekka has worked as a superb strategist and business planner, leading cross-functional, multidisciplinary teams to achieve demanding production, quality and cost-containment goals.

She is an inspiration to all around her and a critical asset. She is a woman of integrity and a true servant leader with a wealth of knowledge that she shares with family, friends, colleagues, and the community to ensure they achieve success.

STEM and STEAM Outreach Education is extremely important to Terriekka. In 2019, PECS,

in partnership with PDF, spearheaded the creation of Dallas County's first STEM Career education program for Dallas County Juvenile Detention Centers.

Over 160 juveniles have successfully participated in the program to date and are being introduced to coding and web developed. This effort was in conjunction with the City of Dallas' efforts to reduce recidivism. She works tirelessly with community and professional organization to raise awareness of the importance of STEM/STEAM Education and has worked to further advance the growth of girls and women

in STEM/STEAM careers.

She was recently named the National Society of Black Engineers STEM Hidden Figure for 2019. An example of another project Terriekka has led was the award-winning STEM conference hosted by the Society of Women Engineers.

This biannual all-day conference serving over two hundred students, focuses on advocating for young women and empowering them through education and exposure to STEM professionals and hands-on STEM activities.

During both her two terms as the Vice President

of Outreach for the Dallas Society of Women Engineers, with over three thousand professional and student members, the Dallas Chapter of SWE received the National Outreach Award and Outstanding Parent and Educator Development for the impact that was achieved through this program. This was out of over 100 chapters nationally.

She strives with her companies' outreach program, Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead!, to bridge the gap between industry and the community to bring full exposure to

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Hon. Helen Giddings

Preparing for the Shift is the theme for the 2022 Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center's Annual Juneteenth Economic Forum set for June 21-22. The sessions will be held in person and via Zoom. They begin at 11 a.m. both days and conclude with a 1 p.m. session.

Topics to be presented:

- Day 1 will cover the economic forecast, cryptocurrency basics and understanding NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens)
- Day 2 provides information about positioning yourself as a leader, the impor-



tance of saving and leaving a legacy

Each year during the economic forum, an individual who has demonstrated perseverance and determination in support of the Outreach Center and

its mission to improve the lives of those in poverty by providing them education and job skills is awarded the Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Champion Award. This year the recipient is the Honorable Helen Giddings. She has generously supported the organization with her time and donations to help fund programs and services. Helen Giddings is President of Multiplex Inc., a specialty concessions company

which she founded in 1989. She is a former member of the Texas House of Representatives where she served 26 years in various leadership positions. Prior to becoming a state representative, she was Vice President of Leadership Development at the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and an executive with Sears, responsible for 11 states. She is strongly committed to public service and has served on

numerous boards and committees. She is a member of the ZWHJCOC Advisory Board. Her civic service has earned special recognition and many awards including being named one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Plus Most Influential Black Americans and received the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Award (NFBPA), and the African American Museum Heritage Award.

This event is free and open to the public. Go to: www.zwhjcoc.org/classes to register.

For more information about the Juneteenth Economic Forum, contact Erica Lloyd at erica.lloyd@zwhjcoc.org.

For more information about the Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center, follow us on Facebook or visit www.zwhjcoc.org.

SN Robert Campos

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Seaman Robert Campos, a native of Sachse, Texas, is serving at the Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) at Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida.

As a student at IWTC, Campos is serving among the future generation of information warfighters.

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

Campos joined the Navy one year ago. Today, Campos serves as a cryptologic maintenance technician.

"I have always been inspired to join the Navy because I wanted to improve my life and have opportu-



nities," said Campos. "I had to overcome the fear of leaving my family, but my family helped me realize they were behind me no matter what."

According to Campos, the values required to succeed in the Navy are

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Reflections on the massacre of the Buffalo 10 and racism

By Antoine M. Thompson

The moment I learned of the shooting at Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, NY I was shocked and saddened, which turned to anger and then disgust. I knew many of the persons killed and even campaigned door to door with Kat Massey and gave her a ride home in my car.

The Massacre of the Buffalo Ten took the lives of innocent people, shattering the lives of their families and the community. The Massacre shed a much-needed national spotlight on the severe neglect of the area, far beyond the fact that there was only one major supermarket in the neighborhood.

Tops on Jefferson Avenue located in Buffalo's Black Belt

In the late 1990's as a young 27-year-old activist and community leader, I attended numerous neighborhood meetings and forums about bringing a supermarket to the East Side of Buffalo. For many years, residents tried to start a food co-op called "Our Market."

While the plan for the food co-op was unsuccessful, their persistence would lead to Tops opening on the historic Jefferson Avenue in 2003. Jefferson Avenue was once the economic and cultural center of Buffalo's Black Community.

The heart of Buffalo's Black community is located in zip code 14208. According to the U.S. Census, over 75% of the zip code's residents are Black and it has a high concentration of Black churches and Black led institutions. This area is vote rich for candidates, often providing the boost needed to elect Black candidates to the school board, city council, mayoral office, state legislature and judgeships.

In fact, this is the very neighborhood where I launched my own political career as a Buffalo Council Member and NY State Senator.

Racism, Redlining Rampant in Buffalo & Around Tops

Anyone that googles Black and Buffalo will quickly learn that Black residents top many of the worst lists for health issues,

homes with lead paint, and racial disparities in homeownership and business ownership.

There are only two banks in 14208, despite all of the political influence in the neighborhood. Residents struggle to get access to mortgages for the purchase of a home, and those that do get approved often get outbid by out-of-town investors and speculators who seek to make them renters instead.

Housing rehabilitation loans and grants from the public and private sectors are also difficult to obtain, driving residents to surrender their properties in housing court, tax foreclosure sales or investors. A quick drive or walk down Laurel or Landon, streets that are adjacent to the Tops on Jefferson, and one can clearly see the need for an infusion of public and private assistance to help property owners fix roofs, porches, siding and perform general upkeep on countless homes. This problem of disinvestment is not unique to Black Buffalo, it is a national crisis.

Time to Restore Hope

Many Black residents in Buffalo have been waiting

for Buffalo's so-called social and economic renaissance to reach areas like 14208. Since 2004, over \$10 billion has been invested by the public and private sectors in Buffalo. Unfortunately, as one of the most politically powerful areas of the city of Buffalo, and state of New York, 14208 is lagging in investment and economic growth.

Hopefully, Jefferson Avenue will not be left behind like it was after the Riots in 1968 following the Assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, just as it was back then, many hearts are heavy, spirits are broken, and the community is weary. It is time for leaders to offer a bold vision to Restore Hope and deliver results that transform lives, families, and communities. In the 1970s it was the Jefferson Commercial Urban Revitalization Area (CURA), in the 1990s it was the Jefferson Renaissance. I ask you, "What's the bold vision this time?"

Antoine M. Thompson is a native of Buffalo, a former NYS State Senator (Buffalo, NY), a former Buffalo City/ Common Council Member.

Marking the significance of Juneteenth

By Antony J. Blinken
U.S. Secretary of State

Juneteenth, or June 19, is a reflective day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to abolish slavery. Yet it wasn't until two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865, that his notice of freedom was received across our country. Since then, Juneteenth has come to mark not only the effective end of chattel slavery, but the reality that freedom and justice have been delayed for far too many.

Juneteenth reminds us of our responsibility to

grapple with the enduring legacy of slavery and to tackle the barriers to full equity and justice for African Americans. It is also a day to honor the extraordinary contributions of the African American community to our nation throughout our history in the face of ongoing adversity and systemic racism.

The United States is taking concrete steps to root out and dismantle existing institutionalized racism and deep-seated inequities. That starts with holding ourselves to the highest possible standards of accountability on our obligations and commitments, acknowledging our continued challenges, and dealing with them transparently.

This Administration has demonstrated its commitment by issuing Executive Order 13985 on "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government"; supporting the creation of a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the State Department and similar positions at federal agencies; and nominating a candidate for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In March, the United States led a United Nations Human Rights Council Joint Statement on Countering Racism and Racial Discrimination that was supported by 158 countries. President Biden has been clear that the United States

will always support dignity, equity, and freedom for all around the world.

Juneteenth is not a celebration of victory; it is an affirmation of strength and resilience, and a reminder that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. We must pursue that path tirelessly even if it is not expeditious or linear. Today, we recommit to moving toward racial justice and equity at home and abroad. We call upon the international community to join the United States in honoring the contributions of people of African descent around the world and echo our promise that, despite the most painful parts of our history, we can and will change.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Cholesterol-lowering gene changes may increase the risk of cataracts

(American Heart Association) People who have genetic variations associated with lowering LDL-cholesterol similar to statin medications appear to have an increased risk of developing cataracts and having cataract surgery, according to new research published today in the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA). JAHA is an open access, peer-reviewed journal of the American Heart Association.

Previous research has found some evidence that statin medications may increase the risk of cataracts. In this study, researchers explored whether certain genes that mimic the activity of statins may also independently increase the risk of developing cataracts.

Statin medications reduce levels of LDL-cholesterol by inhibiting an enzyme called HMG-CoA-reductase (HMGCR). Previous research efforts have confirmed that variants in the HMGCR gene region of the human genome affect how people metabolize



American Heart Association

cholesterol.

"We were able to establish a link between genetic variants that mimic inhibition of HMGCR and the development of cataracts," said lead study author Jonas Ghouse, M.D., Ph.D., a fellow in the cardiac genetics group, Laboratory for Molecular Cardiology in the department of biomedical sciences at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. "We were not able to find any association between newer non-statin, lipid-lowering medications and cataract risk, so this effect is likely specific to statins. However, it's important to stress that the benefits of statins for lowering levels of low-density lipoproteins

in people who have high blood cholesterol levels completely outweighs the small risk of cataracts, and cataract surgery is effective and safe."

Using the UK Biobank, a large database of UK residents that tracks serious health and medical conditions of nearly half a million adults, researchers analyzed genetic data for more than 402,000 people. The researchers focused on five common previously identified genetic variants that lower the level of LDL cholesterol. They then calculated genetic scores based on each variant's previously identified impact on LDL cholesterol. Genetic coding data was examined to iden-

tify carriers of a rare mutation in the HMGCR gene called a predicted loss-of-function mutation.

"When we carry a loss-of-function mutation, the gene is less likely to work," Ghouse said. "If that gene doesn't work, the body can't produce that protein. Simply put, the loss-of-function mutation in the HMGCR gene equals taking a statin medication."

The study found:

- The HMGCR genetic risk score identified people with a higher risk of cataracts and cataract surgery. Each 38.7 mg/dL reduction in LDL cholesterol by the genetic score was associated with a 14% higher risk of cataracts and a 25% higher risk of cataract surgery.

- Among 169,172 with HMGCR sequencing data, 32 (0.02%) carried one of 17 rare HMGCR predicted loss-of-function mutations. Compared with non-carriers, carriers of these rare mutations were more than four-and-a-half times as likely to develop cataracts

and over five times as likely to have cataract surgery.

Ghouse said he was surprised by the magnitude of the association. "The main difference between the two analyses is that loss-of-function mutations are really more detrimental than common variants, meaning they mimic change that is often induced by medications," he said. "We believe that the true effect lies closer to the loss-of-function mutation association. When taking statins, you have an almost-complete inhibition of that protein, and when you have a loss-of-function mutation you also have a significantly reduced ability to produce that protein."

According to the authors, one major limitation of the study is that while carrying these genetic variants constitutes a lifelong risk for the development of cataracts, that risk should not be evaluated the same for people who begin taking statins later in life given the positive impact statins may

have by lowering blood cholesterol levels. Further evaluation of this association in more clinical trials is needed to confirm these findings.

"Our associations reflect lifelong treatment, whereas statin treatment typically occurs later in life," Ghouse said. "However, there is a specific group of patients who are diagnosed with high cholesterol in childhood and start statin treatment at a young age, so they could be identified and followed up more closely for cataracts."

Co-authors are Gustav Ahlberg, M.Sc., Ph.D.; Anne Guldhammer Skov, M.D.; Henning Bundgaard, M.D., D.M.Sc.; and Morten S. Olesen, M.Sc., Ph.D. Authors' disclosures are listed in the manuscript.

The study was funded by BRIDGE - Translational Excellence Programme, The John and Birthe Meyer Foundation, The Innovation Fund Denmark (PM Heart), NordForsk and the Hallas-Møller Emerging Investigator grant.

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fruition with the students she comes in contact with.

With this program, she and other area professionals expose over a thousand students annually to the amazing world of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) by showing them how it's infused in their everyday lives.

Full STEAM Ahead supports local STEM/STEAM as well as those abroad. Terriekka and members of her team have worked with the Guyana and Suriname Animation Networks in South America since 2017 to reform the countries' STEM program focus.

It is the continued goals that students not only learn to be literate in a singular field, but they become

life-long learners who are much more capable of being functionally literate and advance society.

Terriekka believes whole-heartedly that once youth are armed with this knowledge, they can have a solid impact on the world around them and make effective changes right where they are, regardless of their age, gender, and socioeconomic background.

Terriekka, alongside Industry partner organizations, have served in this arena for over 10 years and have assisted extensively in the project management and program development for K-12, workforce development and adult education for the organizations below:

- Dallas Independent School District,

- City of Cedar Hill,
- Platform 4 Life,
- Persistence Development Foundation,
- Big Thought - Thriving Minds,
- Texas Afterschool Centers for Education (ACE),
- RMS Drone Apprenticeship,
- Society of Women Engineers,
- DeSoto Independent School District,
- Mesquite ISD CTE program,
- Dallas Community College District,
- Guanya Animation Network,
- Suriname Animation Network,
- Caricom ICT
- Uplift Education
- City of Hutchins
- City of Joppee
- Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center

- Tarrant County Community College
- High Tech High Heels

Overall, Terriekka's knowledge base, insight and creativity has proven

to be very useful and beneficial over a wide range of issues and industries.

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Sentencing Project report debunks myth of youth-led crime wave

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The D.C.-based research and advocacy nonprofit, The Sentencing Project, has debunked a widespread narrative that youth crime has exploded during the pandemic.

In a new report released on Tuesday, June 14, the group said it found scarce evidence of a new youth-led crime wave.

The report titled, "Data Reveals Violence Among Youth Under 18 Has Not Spiked in the Pandemic," revealed that most of the data suggests that rates of violence among people under 18 have been flat or declining.

"This report comes at an important moment. Throughout the pandemic, many media outlets and policymakers have perpetuated a narrative that youth



crime is skyrocketing," the report authors wrote.

"Simultaneously, recent mass shootings have shown the heinous damage that a single individual can cause with easy access to guns."

Further, scattered anecdotes and talk of out-of-control youth are fueling calls for stricter punishments and harsher treatment, the authors noted.

But such methods have consistently proven to be ineffective at preventing crime, and are likely to

cause crime to increase, they continued.

"It's crucial to set the record straight. There is no evidence of a significant increase in youth crime or violence," said Richard Mendel, Senior Research Fellow at the Sentencing Project and author of the report.

"Of course, we must do everything we can to steer young people away from delinquency, and we must block young people's access to deadly assault

weapons," Mendel stated.

He continued:

"But the evidence is overwhelming that imposing more extreme punishments on youth doesn't work.

"Instead, we need to implement strategies that actually reduce crime – like minimizing youth confinement and improving social, emotional, and mental health support for young people within their schools and communities."

The report revealed that the share of crimes in the United States committed by youth has fallen by more than half over the past two decades and continued to fall for all major offense categories in 2020 – the most recent year for which data is available.

Additionally, the overall number of offenses categorized by the FBI as violent – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault –

committed by youth declined in 2020.

Authors also tackled youth-led carjackings, which have received blanket media coverage based on a spike in youth arrests in some jurisdictions.

They noted that no national data on carjackings is available, and that evidence about the share of carjackings committed by young people is inconclusive.

Data does show that total robberies by youth – of which carjackings are a subcategory – declined in 2020.

Further, the authors cited "conclusive evidence that punitive policies in the youth justice system don't deter crime or improve community safety."

"Indeed, transfer to adult court, heavy reliance on detention and confinement, and criminalization of routine adolescent mis-

behavior in school all tend to heighten delinquency, worsen youth outcomes, and undermine public safety," the authors determined.

Fortunately, the authors observed, there are plenty of strategies proven to improve youth outcomes and steer young people away from crime – like hiring counselors rather than police officers in public schools, diverting young people accused of less serious offenses into restorative justice and other community-led alternatives to court, and reducing over-reliance on detention, incarceration, and transfers to the adult justice system.

Also, The Sentencing Project has also developed a media guide with 10 Crime Coverage Dos and Don'ts to help media outlets better inform the public and policymakers about crime issues.

Even before losing election, Trump aggressively pushed 'Big Lie'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The second public hearing from the House Select Committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection revealed that Donald Trump was perhaps the worst loser in American political history.

It also showed how alone he stood among an inner circle that couldn't convince him he had lost the



2020 election and a team that failed to get him to call off the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol.

The former President declared the election as

fraudulent "right out of the box on election night before there was actually any potential of looking at evidence," former U.S. Attorney William Barr said in

a taped deposition played by Committee members on Monday, June 13, the second day of public hearings.

Matt Morgan, the Trump campaign's general counsel, provided a videotaped deposition in which he noted that "the law firms were not comfortable making arguments that (lawyer and advisor) Rudy Giuliani was making publicly" about election fraud.

One lawmaker described Giuliani as "apparently ine-

bricated." At the same time, Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, testified that the former President waited in the White House in a room with advisers while awaiting election results.

Meanwhile, Trump's former campaign manager Bill Stepien, said his boss disagreed with those who suggested it was too early to call the election.

"They were going to go in a different direction,"

related Kushner, who admitted telling Trump that "it was not the approach I would take if I were you."

Following Joe Biden's election win, Trump publicly declared himself the victor, and the Big Lie began.

He told supporters at the White House, including Barr, that a big vote dump had occurred in Detroit.

"I said, 'Did anyone

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similar to those found in Sachse.

"Some of the lessons I have brought into my career are helping others, better yourself today more than you were yesterday and speak up for what is right," said Campos.

IWTC, one of Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT)'s four training commands, provides schooling for the Navy and joint services in cryptologic, information systems and cyber functions, enabling

optimal performance of information warfare across the full spectrum of military operations.

Headquartered in Pensacola, Florida, CIWT delivers trained information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services, enabling optimal performance of information warfare across the full spectrum of military operations.

CIWT trains enlisted personnel and officers in all functions of informa-

tion warfare covering fields ranging from military intelligence, cyberwarfare and information systems to electronic warfare and cryptologic operations throughout the scope of their Navy careers. CIWT trains more than 26,000 students annually, with an average of 3,700 students attending classes daily. CIWT constantly strives to modernize training taught using emerging technology and the Persistent Cyber Training Environment to train the next generation of information warfare pro-

fessionals.

Serving in the Navy means Campos 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 a great contributor to national security as we protect our country from conflict and provide security at sea," said Campos.

Campos and the Sailors they serve with have many

opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"Although my Navy career has just begun, my proudest accomplishment this far would be receiving the title as an honor graduate during graduation of my first 'A' school," said Campos.

As Campos 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

means protecting my country, being thankful for where I am, helping my shipmates and being a part of one big Navy family," added Campos.

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.

Celebrating a Productive Year in Dallas ISD



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Another successful year is in the books, and we have much to celebrate. First, congratulations to the Class of 2022! You may have had some big obstacles thrown in your path, but you've persevered and can now enjoy this important milestone. My best wishes to all of our graduates, and especially those from District 6 – Maya Angelou, David W. Carter, and Justin F. Kimball high schools and Kath-

Superintendent's Scholarships

This year, 78 outstanding seniors in Dallas ISD earned a total of \$238,000 in scholarships funded through the annual Superintendent's Scholarship Golf Tournament. Seventy-six recipients were each awarded \$3,000 toward the cost of college. And \$5,000 Superintendent's Leadership Scholarships were awarded to two members of the Teen School Board. Congratulations to all, and especially our District 6 scholars, below:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| \$3,000 Armani Polk | David W. Carter High School |
| \$3,000 Joselyne Gonzalez | David W. Carter High School |
| \$3,000 RaKayla Jones | David W. Carter High School |
| \$3,000 Sirr Mitchell Jackson | Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Early College |
| \$3,000 Christopher Gabriel Almaraz Jr. | Justin F. Kimball High School |
| \$3,000 Christopher DeGrate Jr. | Justin F. Kimball High School |
| \$3,000 Samantha Maya | Justin F. Kimball High School |

lyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy. You did it!

Lone finalist for Superintendent

Join me in welcoming our lone finalist for school superintendent, Stephanie

Elizalde, the current superintendent of Austin ISD, who served previously as chief of school leadership for our district. When she settles in, we will bid a fond farewell to Dr. Michael Hi-

nojosa, who announced in January that he would close out his 13-year tenure as superintendent. He will serve as emeritus superintendent in the interim, helping ensure a smooth transition.

Good news for teachers and staff

- Starting teacher salary will be raised to \$60,000, to ensure that Dallas ISD remains the most competitive place for teachers to begin their career.

- Dallas ISD will increase its minimum wage to \$15, providing workers a living wage across our system.

- To keep up with inflation, Dallas ISD compensation this year will increase by 6.5% - 22.1% across our

system, including proposed average total compensation increases of 9.9% for teachers, 12.6% for teachers' assistants, 17% for bus drivers and 18.2% for custodians. This is comprised of both a retention bonus and raises.

School is out, but meals are in

To ensure that all students stay nourished during the break, children younger than 18 and students up to 21 years old with disabilities are invited to enjoy healthy summer meals at no cost. Starting June 6, selected Dallas ISD schools will serve meals on site Monday through Thursday. Breakfast is from 7 to

9 a.m., and lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more, visit www.dallasisd.org/fcns.

Summer learning is a Breeze

During June and July, students in Pre-K through high school will be able to partake in fun summer learning activities and other enrichment activities. As part of the district's free summer school programs, Summer Breeze 2022, students will have a chance to connect with their peers, accelerate learning, and improve their social and emotional well-being. To learn more, visit www.dallasisd.org/summerlearning.

STEM Careers Coalition named Best STEM Product by SmartBrief 2022 Readers' Choice Awards

SILVER SPRING, MD – STEM Careers Coalition™ – the first-of-its-kind national STEM initiative powered by corporate and non-profit leaders and anchored in schools by Discovery Education – has been named a winner in the STEM and STEAM category of the 2022 Readers' Choice Awards presented by SmartBrief.

The Readers' Choice Awards 2022 presented by SmartBrief on EdTech celebrates those companies and products making a last-

ing impact on the education industry. Submissions were evaluated by both industry professionals and end-users of SmartBrief. Through innovative solutions, the latest technology or pioneering problem-solving, SmartBrief recognizes those who are changing the education landscape for the better. SmartBrief is the leading digital news service for top-level education professionals in K-12, higher education, and specialized fields.

The STEM Careers Co-

alition prepares 10 million students for the future of work by providing equitable access to digital content and experiences that engage students, build foundational STEM knowledge, and develop the critical skills students need for college and career success. Having reached over 5 million students by the second-year anniversary in 2021, the Coalition is nurturing a diverse culture of STEM education in K-12 schools and after-school centers nationwide

by empowering educators to teach STEM effectively in the classroom, fostering and promoting quality education, and building the next generation of STEM solution-seekers with intentional focus on racial and gender equity. No-cost and standards aligned resources introduce new experiences to further support middle and high school students' career preparedness. STEM Careers Coalition Signature partners include Boeing, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble (P&G), Ameri-

can Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Caterpillar Foundation, Stanley Black & Decker, DuPont, and PepsiCo Foundation.

The Discovery Education K-12 platform was also selected as an honorable mention in the Curriculum Development category. The Discovery Education K-12 learning platform connects educators to a vast collection of high-quality, standards-aligned content, ready-to-use digital lessons, intuitive quiz and activity creation

tools, and professional learning resources. Providing educators an enhanced learning platform, the Discovery Education platform facilitates engaging, daily instruction in any learning environment.

"On behalf of our critical corporate and community partners, the STEM Careers Coalition is honored to receive this recognition from SmartBrief and educators," said Amy Nakamoto, General Manager of

See STEM, Page 8

TRUMP, from Page 5

point out to you – did all the people complaining about it point out to you, you actually did better in Detroit than you did last time?" Barr stated.

The former attorney general declared, "there's no indication of fraud in Detroit."

Barr also put the kibosh on Trump's claim of election fraud in Philadelphia.

"The President has repeatedly suggested there was some kind of outpouring of unexpected votes in inner-city areas like Philadelphia. That was absolute

rubbish," Barr stated.

Close Trump associates also pushed back against the former President's damaging but false claims that the Dominion voting machines were rigged.

Barr called Trump's allegations against Dominion "disturbing" and baseless.

Further, Kushner, Trump's loyal advisor, told the Committee that he didn't approve of Giuliani's repeated "lies" during the 2020 election.

But Kushner declared that his father-in-law continued to speak favorably

of Giuliani, even telling the inner circle that he had confidence in the former New York mayor.

When Trump claimed fraud in Georgia, his team members attempted to shoot down the declaration.

They pointed out Trump's remarks that there were ballots in a suitcase in the Peach State. "The 'suitcase full of ballots' [turned out] to be an official lockbox where ballots were stored for safety," BJay Pak, a former U.S. Attorney, stated.

Many have compared Trump's Big Lie to former President Richard Nixon's

Watergate scandal that led to Nixon resigning in shame.

"Nixon sought to undermine the Constitution to assure that he would win the 1972 election and then covered it up, for which he paid the price of forced resignation. Trump sought to undermine the Constitution to overturn an election he had lost in 2020. He didn't cover up his efforts, though exactly what was going on still hasn't been told in full. Instead, he attempted to build his case on a foundation of lies," Journalist and editor Dan Balz wrote in a

column published on June 13.

"Those who have studied Watergate see a line that travels from that scandal to the Trump presidency," Balz continued.

"Part of this is because of the similarities between Nixon and Trump – the self-pitying nature of their personalities, the venality exhibited during their presidencies, the demonization of their opponents."

Balz observed that Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) was a law student and legislative staffer to a Democrat on the House Judiciary

Committee during Watergate.

He noted that today, she is a member of the Jan. 6 House panel investigating not just the attack on the Capitol but the broader effort to subvert the 2020 vote.

"We are in a political environment that is more sharply partisan than was the case during the Watergate era," Lofgren told Balz. "And you've also got people who lie with impunity and feel that there's no downside to it. I mean, when Nixon was caught in lies, he resigned."

We pledge to
and support

LISTEN TO BLACK WOMEN REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE is the **HUMAN RIGHT** to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender, our work and our reproduction. That **RIGHT** can only be achieved when **ALL** women and girls have the complete economic, social and political **POWER** and resources to make healthy **DECISIONS** about our **BODIES**, our **FAMILIES** and our **COMMUNITIES** in all areas of our lives.

Right now, we are faced with an attack on our **HUMAN RIGHTS** as global **CITIZENS** by a conservative, activist U.S. Supreme Court.

Our **FREEDOM** depends on **DISMANTLING** systemic racism, misogyny, anti-blackness and white supremacy.

Historically, we have **WON** battles for our human and civil rights when we **LISTEN TO AND TRUST BLACK WOMEN**:

71%

of Black women support **ABORTION** services.

85%

believe whether she has "private or government-funded health coverage, **EVERY** woman should have **HEALTH COVERAGE** for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including **ABORTION**.

91%

believe a woman's ability to **CONTROL** whether or when she has children is an important part of **FINANCIAL STABILITY** for herself and her **FAMILY**.

Therefore, **WE** the undersigned **PLEDGE**

To do everything in our **POWER** to ensure all Black women and birthing people have the freedom, resources and power they need to assert **AGENCY** over their **BODIES** and to ensure that their **FAMILIES** can **THRIVE**.

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Denton County Dems to host LBJ-Obama Dinner

The Denton County Democratic Party (DCDP) is set to host a fundraising LBJ-Obama Dinner July 30, 2022, in the Tuscany Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville from 6-10 p.m. The dinner's theme is "Fighting for the Heart of Texas."

"The LBJ-Obama dinner offers Democrats an opportunity to enjoy an evening together and listen to speeches by some of our great leaders," said Delia Parker-Mims, DCDP chair. "Our keynote speaker will be lawyer Wendy Davis, a former Texas State Senator and 2014 gubernatorial candidate. Our guest speaker will be Texas House Representative Jasmine

Crockett who is seeking to replace Eddie Bernice Johnson in the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressional District 30."

From 6-7 p.m., VIP access will occur from 6-7 p.m. and the banquet will happen from 7-10 p.m.

A live auction that includes an autographed pair of sneakers Wendy Davis wore during her 13-hour-long filibuster to block Senate Bill 5, which aimed to further restrict abortion rights. The dress for the occasion will be Texas formal.

"We hope to have a good turnout so we can further support the elections of Democratic candidates who fight for the needs of all Texans and their fami-

lies," said Parker-Mims.

Individuals or companies interested in purchasing a

sponsorship or program ad may call 972-835-7301.

The Denton County

Democratic Party has the goal of promoting Democratic ideals and values

within our communities through grassroots organization and education.



Jasmine Crockett (Courtesy photo)



Wendy Davis (Courtesy photo)

STEM, from Page 6

Social Impact at Discovery Education. "Our Coalition members are united in fostering inclusivity and equity in education through STEM opportunities. Together, we are supporting resources that resonate with educators and engage students to become the diverse solutions seekers of tomorrow."

Learn more about the SmartBrief Read-

ers' Choice Awards 2022 and the other winners at awards.smartbrief.com/readerschoice2022edtech.

For more information about Discovery Education's digital resources and professional learning services, visit www.discoveryeducation.com, and stay connected with Discovery Education on social media through Twitter and LinkedIn.



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Dallas-based African-American filmmakers bring legacy story to life

Just in time for June-teenth, an educational and enlightening glimpse into Dallas' past is being unveiled.

The hard-won legacy of the 1936 Hall of Negro Life is remembered in the film "Rising: The Hall of Negro Life" produced by the City of Dallas Office of Arts & Culture, Southroad Pictures, and Limeville Entertainment. Airing on KERA at 7:30 and 10:30 pm on June 17, 2022, the film is partially funded through Inspire Art Dallas, Fair Park First, and the National Park Service.

In spring of 2020, the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) received a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to research and interpret the historic legacy of the 1936



Hall of Negro Life. Given both the historical significance of the story, itself, and the importance of properly showcasing it, OAC commissioned two of Dallas' prominent Black filmmakers. The film was directed by Lindell Singleton and King Hollis of Li-

meville Entertainment and Southroad Pictures.

"The Hall of Negro Life was a watershed moment for African-Americans. What happened over that summer altered the trajectory of the push to obtain equity, recognition and social justice. It's a story that had

to be told and we're pleased to bring it to life for this generation," said Singleton. "It was an incredible discovery," said Hollis. "To know about the city I grew up in, not knowing our contribution to civil rights, our contributions to the image of African-Americans dur-

ing that century."

"This is an important film because it documents a little known story about the history of African Americans in Dallas." Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney President Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Rising recalls the events that occurred in the middle of the Great Depression when determined Black Americans of Texas lobbied for the opportunity to tell their story at the world's fair, a first in the fair's history. Fraught with broken promises from state legislature, the ultimate story of character and courage altered the tenor and trajectory of U.S. race relations. The exhibition was finally approved with fewer than 100 days to show time through the extraordinary

efforts of A. Maceo Smith, who lobbied in support of federal funding to underwrite the exhibition.

"The Hall of Negro Life is a significant cultural moment in Dallas' history. This exhibition of African American culture, achievement and history has been under appreciated and neglected as part of our city's history. The film captures this inspiring story and the lasting legacy of The Hall of Negro Life beautifully," offered Benjamin Espino, Interim Director, Office of Arts & Culture

Visited by 400,000 Americans and visitors from across the globe, four site-specific murals framed the entrance to the pavilion. Painted by Aaron

See RISE, Page 11

Film Review: Sandler turns an interesting corner in 'Hustle'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) When comic actor Adam Sandler took on the challenging role of a diamond dealer in the gritty riveting film *Uncut Gems*, he crossed a chasm. It was as if he'd put his past behind him and was determined to become a multifaceted actor. *Hustle* proves that point.

Sandler doesn't overdo the basketball scout character of Stanley Sugarmen. He lives it. Sugarmen is the attentive and skilled employee of the Philadelphia 76ers. He travels worldwide looking for exceptional talent. Finding that "missing piece" is almost an allusive endeavor, yet he continues. His plucky efforts are well-respected by the franchise's owner Rex (Robert Duvall): "You never took anybody's s--t." But not by the boss's conniving son Vince (Ben Foster).

For basketball fans, this LeBron James-produced sports drama/comedy is paradise. Icons like Shaq,



Queen Latifah and Adam Sandler costar in *Hustle*.
(Courtesy photo)

and Dr. J make cameos. Dunks, three-pointers, trash talking and other mainstays of the game are in play. Still the heart of the film is Stanley's journey from company man to outcast, to mentor and hopefully savior. It's a transition that is well developed and documented by Will Fetters (*A Star Is Born*) and Taylor Materne's thoughtful, humorous and heartwarming script.

The challenges he faces from past mistakes and the mixture of respect and derision he confronts charts his course. It's no wonder

he's willing to shepherd an imperfect but talented basketball player. They both are haunted and hounded by previous human errors—bad reputations only success can put to rest. Even over the roughest patches, the fatherly scout stays hyped about his new charge: "This guy is as if Scottie Pippen and a wolf had a baby, Lisa Leslie raised him, and Alan Iverson was the babysitter."

The odd man out persona weighs on Sandler's shoulders, but he is more than up to the task. His

emotions either float close to the surface or erupt. His humor is twisted and funny when it needs to be. Yet the seriousness of certain moments, like the revelations that expose his dishonesty, are rendered with a sensitivity that will make audi-

ences hope that Stanley will prevail even as his failures mount.

Still the core of this film is Sandler and his meditative interpretation of a put upon man seeking his day of reckoning. It's a nice surprise watching a comic ac-

tor, who was once the subject of ridicule for his blue collar films, build a reputation as a nuanced performer who commands respect.

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

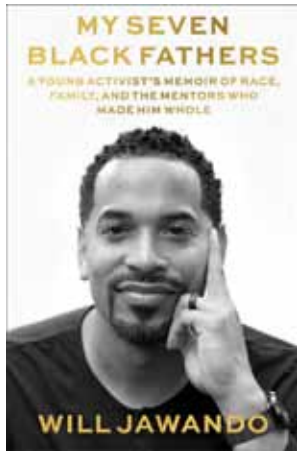


NDG Book Review: 'My Seven Black Fathers' is a mentor's motivator

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Studies show that “a father in the home matters to his Black son,” no matter their income or what their neighborhood looks like. Even a father-figure works: Jawando says that he is the man he is today because of “the Black men that I gained access to because of my mother’s job and where I went to school.”

His step-father, Joseph Jacob, gave Jawando his “Black American identity.” His fourth-grade teacher,



Mr. Williams – the first Black male teacher he’d ever seen – tutored him on

respect and respectability. His mother’s co-worker, Jay Fletcher, a gay man, taught Jawando that showing vulnerability was necessary to be “whole.” Coach Wayne Holmes showed him how to succeed. Deen Sanwoola, a friend and mentor, gave Jawando “perspective” on his “Nigerian identity.” Barack Obama, with whom Jawando worked, showed Jawando his “birthmark” in his outside-of-mainstream name. And from his own birth-father, once they connected again and traveled to

Nigeria together, he found forgiveness and understanding.

“Now the healing could begin,” Jawando said. “All it took was a four-thousand-mile journey together.”

Sit up and pay attention.

That’s what “My Seven Black Fathers” asks you to do. It oozes with gratitude and grace, it flashes with remembered anger and calm, and, while author Will Jawando tells his story, it asks you to pay attention.

That’s not hard to do. Jawando’s childhood,

which he relates in great detail, was like that of many Black boys, but with a difference: seven Black men gave of their time to help form him, which he indicates doesn’t happen for a lot of children. And yet, despite its benefits, getting the mentorship was a struggle sometimes – a surprising point that surfaces but isn’t belabored, nor is Jawando’s reasoning for why this matters. Like any good storyteller, he tells, then lets his tale linger, leaving an impression you’ll come back

to, time and again.

It shouldn’t be a surprise if “My Seven Black Fathers” might also spur you to mentor a kid, or to somehow get involved in a child’s life now or soon. In the meantime, this memoir on being a Black man has a lot to offer.

On your way to the bookstore or library, pick up “Daddy Speaks Love” by Leah Henderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. It’s a cute picture book for kids ages 3-5 about the love between father and child.

Festival at the Switchyard sponsorship and vendor opportunities open

The City of Carrollton is again offering local businesses an opportunity to get their name out to the Carrollton community and DFW Metroplex by becoming an official Festival at the Switchyard sponsor. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Historic Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street). Receive high visibility and positive brand reinforcement delivered with impact and frequency in online and



City of Carrollton / Unsplash

offline media, social media, advertising and other forms of publicity. With more than 30,000 people in attendance in 2021, the completely free

Festival is the flagship event for brands seeking to stand out in a sea of fall festivals. Sponsorship packages range from \$1,500 to \$25,000, and

custom packages are available by request. For more information and to view the Festival sponsorship brochure, visit the Sponsors page at carrolltonfestival.com.

The Festival also offers opportunities for craft and food vendors to sell tangible goods onsite at the event. The 2022 vendor applica-

tions are open now and are available for download on the Vendors page at carrolltonfestival.com. Vendor booth spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and vendors who apply before Monday, Aug. 1 receive a \$25 discount. Businesses and non-profits not selling tangible goods will only be allowed to par-

ticipate as a sponsor. For more information about Festival vendor opportunities, email festival@cityof-carrollton.com or call 972-466-3084.

Stay connected to all Festival entertainment news at carrolltonfestival.com and on social media at facebook.com/CarrolltonFestival and twitter.com/CarrolltonFest.

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MEMBER FDIC  **EQUAL HOUSING LENDER**

AARP research shows Black women voters aged 50 and over will help decide the balance of power in next election

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

New research by AARP in partnership with pollsters Celinda Lake, Christine Matthews, Kristen Soltis Anderson, and Margie Omero, found that only 17% of Black women have made up their mind about who they will vote for in the 2022 election.

According to a news release, roughly half (53%) of these voters say they will not make their decisions until weeks or just days before the midterm election.

"Black women 50 and over are worried about



Photo via NNPA

pocketbook issues, the future of the nation and feeling left behind by their elected officials," Nancy LeaMond, AARP Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer, said in the news release.

"The vast majority of these women haven't made

up their minds about how they'll vote in November. Candidates would be wise to listen to their opinions and concerns."

According to an AARP survey, Black women 50 and over are more likely to be optimistic about the economy and their per-

sonal financial situation than women 50 and over of other races and ethnicities.

The majority (56%) say the economy is working well for them personally, compared

to 52% of 50-plus women overall who say the economy is not working well for them. However, they still have significant concerns.

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) say rising prices are the most important thing to them personally when thinking about the economy, and (81%) are concerned about their income keeping up with rising costs.

- Black women 50 and

over are also worried about Social Security being there when they retire (75%) and having enough saved for retirement (22%).

- Political division in the country is also a concern among Black women voters age 50 and over, and they are unimpressed with the job elected officials are doing on a range of issues, including their dominant concern of rising prices.

- Significant majorities give elected officials D/F grades on issues, including prices rising faster than income (80%), the wage gap between the rich and poor (77%), crime (76%), race relations (72%), and

the costs of health care and prescription drugs (70%).

A recent focus group hosted by AARP with Black women 50 and over also shows they are very worried about the economy and feel unheard.

Most see the country as in trouble, and many are concerned about financial pressures, age discrimination, and the dangers facing younger generations, like racial profiling.

Nearly every Black woman said they feel ignored by politicians today, and many described themselves as "invisible" at

See AARP, Page 13

81 grassroots organizations awarded a total of \$750,000 in grants through industry's 'Make Golf Your Thing' Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — 81 grassroots golf organizations will receive a total of \$750,000 in funding to further their efforts to engage underrepresented populations of the sport. These groups (*full list below) are being awarded with a grant through Make Golf Your Thing, the industry's commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in making the sport more welcoming for all.

Initially introduced in 2021 (by the Make Golf Your Thing youth & adult player development work group), the grant program to date has provided 155 grants to 111 unique grassroots organizations, totaling more than \$1 million overall (May 2021: 43 grants totaling \$150,000; Jan. 2022: 31 grants totaling \$150,000). The program was established to support organiza-



Photo via NNPA

tions dedicated to increasing participation among golf's underrepresented populations (i.e., Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous communities, as well as women, LGBTQI+ individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities).

"When the game comes together and pools every resource to grow and broaden the reach of the game, only great things can happen," said Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA and executive sponsor of the youth &

adult player development work group for Make Golf Your Thing. "This unifying movement is helping to make a difference in communities across America, and advance the game in ways none of us can do alone."

"Access to golf in a business context is a pathway to opportunity," said Anna Alvarez Boyd, co-founder of FairWays to Leadership (one of the 81 grant recipients). "Our group's mission is to increase diversity

in business and in golf by teaching college students from diverse backgrounds the skills they need to become effective leaders. The financial commitment of the grant program to organizations like ours will only further golf's collective efforts to bring new and diverse audiences into our sport."

The grant program is part of the industry's broader commitment to making the sport more inclusive for all. Last month, a new Make Golf Your Thing search directory was launched for consumers, consisting of more than 8,400 registered golf programs and organizations across the U.S. The directory allows individuals to search for programs and events using filters such as location, age, ability, gender, etc., giving new and diverse audiences an opportunity to become more en-

gaged in the sport through programs in their own community.

Formally launched in May 2021, Make Golf Your Thing is the industry's movement to make golf accessible to individuals from all backgrounds. Led by six cross-industry work groups, the initiative is specifically focused on: education & skill development, talent acquisition, procurement, human resources, youth & adult player development,

and marketing/communications.

Funding for the grant program is being administered by the American Golf Industry Coalition, a partnership among golf's leading organizations to promote and advocate for the collective interests of the sport. Financial support for the program is led by a contingent of industry supporters committed to making the sport more welcoming and inclusive for all.

RISE, from Page 9

Douglas, the most important Black artist of the early 20th century, these murals welcomed visitors to the exhibition with a clear message of the importance of African American's contributions to American culture in 1936. The hall also

feature the Hall of Music, Arts, and Literature curated by Dorothy Porter; The Hall of Medicine and Public Health; The Hall of Religion; and the Hall of Medicine. For five months the federally funded exhibition was operational on the

grounds of Fair Park during the Texas Centennial Exhibition then it mysteriously closed with no explanation. Out of the embers of destruction, a civil rights movement was born.

Being involved with the creation of this most important eye-opening documentary has been a joy, a great

learning experience and a perfect vehicle for Inspire Art Dallas. "Gail Sachson, MFA and Co-Founder of Inspire Art Dallas

For more information on the research about the Hall listen to the Rising Podcasts available on <https://dallasculture.org/ongoing-projects/>

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'State Of Black Music' podcast debuts on the Mocha Podcast Network in celebration of NMAAM Juneteenth Black Music Month Summit

(Black PR Wire) WASHINGTON, DC – In celebration of Black Music Month, the Mocha Podcasts Network (MPN) is proud to announce the premiere of the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) 'STATE OF BLACK MUSIC' podcast on the ever-growing and NAACP Image Award-winning network.

The State Of Black Music podcast is hosted by Music Industry vets Phil Thornton, award-winning producers Claude Kelly, Chuck Harmony, and Tamone Bacon. It will launch concurrently with the NMAAM's Black Music Month Celebration Summit June 16 – 19.



The Annual Black Music Month Summit kicks off June 16 with the State of Black Music Summit, community day, and culminates with a Juneteenth block party on June 19.

From hilarious to informative, the State Of Black Music podcast is a seat at the table with industry vets

in the entertainment industry.

"Our goal is to continue to shine a light on Black musicians and creators and their impact on American culture. We're honored to collaborate with Mocha Podcasts Network and NMAAM to continue our mission," says the hosts.

Each episode shares intimate conversations with celebrity guests and music influencers to debate the impact of Black music on today's culture. The first episodes published for Black Music Month in June will feature hit singers Tamar Braxton and Tevin Campbell.

"We are thrilled to kick

off Black Music Month this year with our annual events and expand the celebration to a broader audience via the State Of Black Music podcast in partnership with the Mocha Podcasts Network.

"It's our mission as an institution to continue to amplify Black artists and voices who push our culture forward," says H. Beecher Hicks III, President and CEO of NMAAM.

Mocha Podcasts Network has built a platform dedicated to amplifying 'conversations from a black perspective'. The network received an NAACP Image Award for the 'Two Funny Mamas' hosted by comedi-

ennes and actresses Sherri Shepherd and Kym Whitley in the first year.

Other podcasts on the network include Café Mocha, En Vogue's Funky Divas podcast, Rolonda On-Demand, Vegan Sexy Cool, B Lifted Up, The Whole Woman with new podcasts from, Been Worthy the Podcast and On the Way. With dynamic storytelling and the thought leadership from the network's leading voices, MPN has generated well over 100,000 downloads monthly. Moreover, the Network has garnered the support of diverse sponsors and advertisers such as PG, AARP, Hello Fresh,

FX, One United Bank and Better Help to name a few.

"I am thrilled with our partnership with NMAAM especially to kick off the Juneteenth holiday. The debut of the STATE OF BLACK MUSIC podcast on our platform speaks to the importance of Black music and its impact on our culture," says Sheila Eldridge, CEO of Miles Ahead Entertainment & Broadcasting

To learn more about Mocha Podcasts Network, visit www.mochapodcast-network.com and follow @MochaPodcastsNetwork on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

POLICE, from Page 1

officials will reach out to community groups and members of the public to learn about their experiences with LSP.

The Special Litigation Section of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of

Louisiana are conducting the investigation jointly.

"Every American, regardless of race, has the right to constitutional policing," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

"Based on an extensive review of publicly available

information and information provided to us, we find significant justification to investigate whether Louisiana State Police engages in excessive force and engages in racially discriminatory policing against Black residents and other people of color."

Clarke continued:

"The Justice Department stands ready to use every

tool in our arsenal to confront allegations of misconduct and to ensure legitimacy during encounters with law enforcement."

The DOJ ask that anyone

with relevant information to contact them via email at Community.Louisiana@usdoj.gov or by phone at (202) 353-0684.

Individuals can also re-

port civil rights violations regarding this or other matters using the Civil Rights Division's reporting portal, available at civilrights.justice.gov.

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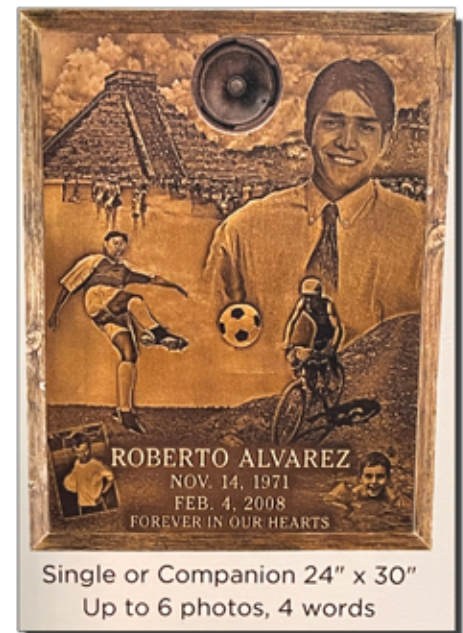
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Ready Life, Black-owned fintech aimed at economic empowerment, celebrates launch, announces sponsorship of Denny's Orange Blossom Classic

A T L A N T A --(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Ready Life, a new digital banking and payment processing platform designed to make first-time home purchases and small business growth possible for Black consumers, announced Tuesday it would be the presenting sponsor of this year's Denny's Orange Blossom Classic (OBC), a four-day celebration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"As a Black-owned fintech, our mission is deeply personal. Ready Life is a financial services solution built on the technology of the future to address a problem as old as this country itself: the struggle of Black families to build real generational wealth," Ashley D. Bell, founder and CEO of Ready Life, said. "We're going to make it possible

for families to buy their first home no matter their credit and for small businesses to scale their operations no matter their zip code."

When consumers use Ready Life's mobile banking platform to pay their rent on time, members will be able to qualify for a mortgage—no credit score needed. Its payment processing system can lower costs for merchants and minority retail businesses by 80% percent, thanks to its use of blockchain technology.

"When Dr. Bernice King and I founded this company, we understood that we needed the right technology and team. Our world-class board of advisors is comprised of former executives of some of the largest personal finance platforms in the world, including the former CEO and CTO of

SoFi and Figure, as well regulatory experts from the Federal Reserve and the White House," Bell added.

Thousands of HBCU students, alumni, and fans will converge in Miami Gardens this Labor Day weekend to watch the match-up of HBCU football and marching band powerhouses Florida A&M University Rattlers and Jackson State University Tigers.

"Florida A&M and Jack-

son State alumni are investors and leaders at Ready Life, so we couldn't envision a better venue to introduce our game-changing platform than this historic rivalry celebrating the best of our community on and off the field," Bell added.

As the presenting sponsor of Denny's Orange Blossom Classic, Ready Life's support helps advance the OBC's mission of empowering the com-

munities they serve.

"We proudly welcome Ready Life to the Denny's Orange Blossom Classic family as our presenting sponsor. Ready Life's mission aligns with our commitment of creating One Big Community by supporting education initiatives and providing an economic infusion into the communities we serve. We are pleased that they have chosen this opportunity to

introduce their family of products to the community," stated Kendra Bulluck-Major, Executive Director of the Orange Blossom Classic Committee.

To learn more about how Ready Life is disrupting the financial industry through its initial product offering by providing hyper-personalized data to prove credit worthiness, financial literacy, and wellness programs, visit www.readylife.com.



Ready Life co-founders Ashley D. Bell and Dr. Bernice King
(Photo: Business Wire)

AARP, from Page 11

work and in public life.

The AARP national survey was conducted by phone and online from February 18 to March 3, 2022, using NORC's Foresight 50+ Panel, supplemented with interviews from non-probability panels.

The final poll included 1,836 voters age 50 and over who are likely to vote in 2022, with samples of Black voters, Hispanic/Latino voters, Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander voters as well as American Indian/Alaska Native voters.

The survey results repre-

sent a sample of 984 women voters age 50 and over with 171 Black women. Study margin of error: +/- 3.29%.

The focus group was conducted May 24, 2022, by a bipartisan team of pollsters: GBAO, Echelon Insights, Lake Research Partners, and Bellwether Research. The group included nine participants, all Black women aged 50 and over.

Qualitative research findings are directional and not projectable onto the population at large.



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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.

A Trip Around the Whirlwind

By James L. Snyder

Recently, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were able to take a well-earned vacation. One of our grandsons graduated from high school in Ohio, and we decided to go and celebrate with him. It is amazing what you learn when you go on a vacation.

I learned some things about the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. You would think by this time I would have discovered everything there is about her. But I was to be delightfully surprised. Up to this point, she is known as the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage as well as the BOGO Queen. If that isn't enough I was to learn a lot more about her. As soon as we started our vacation, I realized she had a new identity. She is the Travel Princess, and she sits on her throne behind the wheel of her Sissy Van.

This new identity caught

me off guard, but the longer on the road, the more I understood this new identity.

As we drove along, I could not help but smile as I thought about this. Before us was a 9 ½-hour drive to our destination. We planned to cut it in half and spend the night at some motel along the way.

Our second day was rather interesting. I think there were at least ten trucks on the highway for every car. I have never seen so many trucks in all my life. Despite all the trucks, the Travel Princess was able to maneuver around them, and I was rather impressed.

Then a certain situation developed. There was a truck in front of us, a truck behind us, a truck on the right side and a truck on the left side of us. We were blocked in by four different trucks.

I noticed that the situation was getting a little stressful for the Travel Princess.

Then the situation took

on a somewhat different attitude. The truck on the left side was in line with the Sissy Van, and someone was sitting on the passenger side looking out towards us and waving defiantly at the Travel Princess. I am sure he did not know what kind of mess he was getting involved in.

The Travel Princess looked at him with one of her looks that I'm sure he never saw before. Then I glanced at the guy sitting on the passenger side, and all of a sudden, his chin dropped down, his eyes bulged like he had seen a ghost, and I'm sure he had never been as scared before in all his life.

At that moment, the truck he was in slowed down and allowed us to change lanes, go around and get ahead of the trucks. Then, as we changed lanes and passed the truck in front of us, I could see her face was still carrying that defiant attitude and look that she gave

the guy driving the truck next to us.

Passing the truck in front of us, the driver looked at us with one of those looks hard to explain but the kind of look that you know he had been surprised. When encountering the Travel Princess, none of those truck drivers realized whom they were dealing with. I certainly would not want to have been one of those truck drivers at that time. Believe me; I've been in their shoes.

I was so glad to be riding with the Travel Princess at the time, knowing I was in good hands.

A week later, we drove through some rather bumpy roads when we were coming back. I am not sure how we got into that situation, but I was very comfortable knowing that the Travel Princess was in charge, and I had nothing to worry about. That is until something changed.

As we were bumping

along, I heard the Travel Princess sigh deeply and then heard her say something very alarming.

"Something needs to be done with these roads. Somebody needs to fix it."

What I heard made me drop my jaw, and my eyes bulged. I said to myself, "Did I hear what she said?" I knew that when she saw something that needed to be fixed, she would do everything within her power to stop and fix everything. So now, I thought she wanted to fix the road.

Very carefully, I explained to her, "To fix this road, you have to have a state contractor's license and then permits from the county to do it. And those things will take an awful lot of time, which we don't have."

Without even looking in my direction, she slowly said, "Well, I think you're right, and I really don't have time to stop and fix this road."

I cannot tell you how relieved I was to dodge that bullet, which does not happen to me very often. But I sighed very deeply and could not wait until we got off this kind of road.

As we were finishing our drive home, I could not help but think one of my favorite verses of Scripture. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:4-6).

Like many other people, I sometimes get all caught up in the weeping stage and forget about the joy stage. No matter how bad the weeping might be, there is down the road for me joy and that is great anticipation of my life.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Women's Empowerment and Religious Freedom Film Competition honors Pakistani women

'She Stood Against Religious Extremism' by Zeenat Bibi (Peshawar, Pakistan) was awarded the grand prize in the 2022 Women's Empowerment and Religious Freedom Film Competition. Peace Promoters by Khalida Niaz (Peshawar, Pakistan) took 1st runner-up, and Without Fear by Eleni Spiru (U.S.), was awarded 2nd runner-up.

The grand prize winner receives a \$3,000 cash prize, 1st runner-up \$1,500, and 2nd runner-up \$500.

'She Stood Against Religious Extremism' tells the true story of a young woman in a war-torn region of Pakistan who starts an initiative to counter religious extremism and sectarian violence by holding dialogue sessions with youth from different beliefs and religions.

In Peace Promoters, a young woman in Peshawar, Pakistan counters religious-based violence by building relationships among different faith influencers.

Without Fear captures the story of a Pakistani

American woman and her struggles to escape oppression and fight for religious freedom.

The media projects submitted to the film competition came from thirty women who took part in Empower Women Media's Pakistan Media Training Fellowship. For six months, these talented Pakistani women learned about Freedom of Religion or Belief and received expert training on how to produce contextualized digital media to reach their communities and world class leaders.

"We were amazed to witness the tenacity and creativity of the Pakistani women filmmakers," said Shirin Taber, Director of Empower Women Media. "They took risks to share their women's empowerment and religious freedom stories. Their films have the potential to change lives and shift the culture at large. We need more women media advocates like them!"

In addition to the top three films, Hidden Identi-

ties: The Forgotten Women of Ceylon by Soraya Deen (Sri Lanka and U.S.) won the Global Religious Women's Empowerment and Religious Freedom Award.

Two films won Inclusion Awards: A Thousand Reasons to Smile by Anita Inayat (Lahore, Pakistan) and A Helping Hand Across Faiths and Countries by Jamima Afridi (Khyber Pakhtunkwa, Pakistan).

Two films also won Diversity Awards: 'A Story of a Cyclist' from Skardu by Saira Zahid (Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan) and 'Gurdwara Siri Singh Saba, Quetta' by Rani Wahidi (Quetta, Pakistan).

'She Means Change,' a social media campaign created by Ayesha Shaikh (Sukkur, Sindh, Pakistan) won the Inclusion and Diversity Social Media Award.

Empower Women Media invited nine highly respected judges to review the short films, including Katrina Lantos Swett, president of the Lantos Foundation; Dr. Brian Grim of the

Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, Ed Brown, Secretary General of Stefanus Alliance International, and other leading voices for

religious freedom.

This is the fifth annual Religious Freedom Film Competition sponsored by Empower Women Media

in association with the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation.

For more information visit www.empowerwomen.media.

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Why Do We Celebrate Juneteenth?



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There are numerous versions as to why Texas was the last state to get the information to its slaves. Texas slaves were generally profitable as a business investment for individual slaveholders.

The celebration is on June 19 or the weekend closest to the 19th, the term Juneteenth is a portmanteau (combination of two or more words or morphemes, and their definitions, into one new word) of June and nineteenth, and is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in most states. Only Federal holidays are celebrated on a Monday giving a three day holiday.

On June 19, 1865 General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and told the people there that the Civil War was over, and the slaves were now free.

He read them General Order Number 3, which begins by saying, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

This involves an absolute

equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year 1866.

Across many parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land specifically for their communities and increasingly large Juneteenth gatherings — including Houston's Emancipation Park, Mexico's Booker T. Washington Park, and Emancipation Park in Austin.

As the news spread, those who were previously enslaved were shocked and excited. Some took the declaration at face value, and declared that they would now work for their former masters as free men.

Others left immediately - either to go north or to find family members in neigh-

boring states - as soon as they heard the news.

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. County court-houses were overcrowded as Blacks applied for licenses to legalize their marriages.

Each year, those who had been enslaved celebrated Juneteenth as a day for celebration over their freedom. On that day, families would gather together, pray together, and remember the excitement of hearing the declaration for the first time.

Some of them even made a pilgrimage back to Galveston each year to be together for Juneteenth.

But why that date? After all, President Lincoln had made the Emancipation Proclamation over two years beforehand, on January 1, 1863. The Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, was passed by Congress on January 31,

1865. So what was so special about June 19?

In truth, the Emancipation Proclamation did theoretically free all slaves in the South (although not in the northern states), but the southern states were not yet under Union control. Therefore, the Emancipation Proclamation did not successfully abolish slavery.

In April of 1865, General Lee finally surrendered and the South was forced to accept Lincoln's proclamation, as well as the Thirteenth Amendment.

There are several theories about the extra two months (or the full two and a half

years) that it took for the message to get to Texas - everything from a killed messenger to deliberate stifling of the news.

So when General Granger finally announced that slavery had been abolished, it came as quite a surprise and a reason for celebration.

During the US Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863. Although it declared that slaves were to be freed in the Confederate States of America in rebellion against the federal govern-

ment, it had minimal actual effect.

Even after the ending of military hostilities, as a part of the former Confederacy, Texas did not act to comply with the Emancipation Proclamation.

The freedmen were advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They were informed that they would not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they would not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

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

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