



North Dallas Gazette

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Record inflation shrinks housing affordability, worsens racial wealth gaps

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Newswire Contributor

This summer, temperatures are not the only thing rising above normal.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the nation's consumer price index (CPI) at the end of May was the largest since December 1981, more than 40 years ago. This key economic measure tracks the change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services for about 93 percent of the total U.S. population.

The most recent report released on June 10, showed double-digit CPI increases for fuel, food, utilities, and both new and used vehicles.

Even before this data release, many consumers already adjusted their lives to compensate as best they could for \$5 per gallon gas prices, keeping family cars longer, and taking fewer family outings to free up funds for still-rising food prices.

But how much longer can housing remain affordable when prices for both homes and rents are rising even higher?

Homeownership, historically a reliable building block to family wealth, is more of a challenge today for first-time homebuyers. As of



Currently, the vast majority of new construction housing — whether for rent or for purchase — are for higher-income consumers, leaving moderate and low-income families with severely shrinking housing options. (iStock photo / NNPPA)

2022's first quarter, the median price of an existing single family home grew to \$368,200, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), 15.7 percent higher than a year ago.

Families able to afford a 20 percent down payment on this median-priced home can look forward to a monthly mortgage of approximately \$1,383, which is \$319 more — 30 percent higher — than a year ago, according to NAR.

For Black America, however, a history replete with systemic discrimination in education, employment, lending, and housing imposes

additional harsh realities that have yet to be effectively addressed.

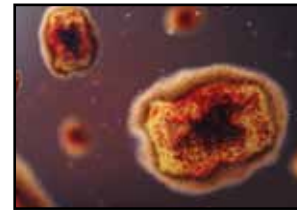
From 2013 to 2019, after adjusting for inflation, the median household income of Black households increased by just \$800, compared with about \$3,000 for white households and \$3,700 for Latinx households, according to research by the National Equity Atlas that analyzed the nation's 100 largest metro areas. Additionally, during these same years, the number of neighborhoods affordable to Black households dropped by 14 percent.

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America's two standards of law enforcement

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Second case of Monkeypox hits Houston

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The fight against child lead exposure

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Roe decision may galvanize midterm voters

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Plano warns residents to conserve

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Dallas tech firm gets \$4M in seed round

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People In The News ...



Gerald Knight



Stacey Abrams

NDG Quote of the Week: "Every time you state what you want or believe, you're the first to hear it. It's a message to both you and others about what you think is possible. Don't put a ceiling on yourself."
— Oprah Winfrey

Gerald Knight

By Nicole S. Daniel
The Birmingham Times

The World Games 2022 (TWG 2022) kick off in Birmingham next week, and not only is the city prepared but one of the area's premier DJs for the event — Gerald Knight, aka DJ New Era—is prepared, as well.

Knight announced in late May on social media that he was selected to be one of the DJs at Legion Field, site of the flag football competition. His daily responsibilities will include



hyped the crowd, playing music during warmups and when a team scores, making sure the music matches the vibe, and most importantly keeping everyone entertained.

TWG 2022, which will draw elite athletes from more than 100 countries around the globe, will take place from July 7 through July 17, 2022, at various venues across the Birmingham metro area—including Protective Stadium, Legion Field, the Birmingham CrossPlex, and the Hoover Metropolitan Complex—and is expected to have an estimated \$256 million in economic impact.

Supportive Home

Knight, 35, who also DJs basketball and softball games at the University of Alabama (UA), grew up

in a very strict two-parent household with two brothers—one older, Eugene, and one younger, Randall—in Fairfield, Alabama. There were no video games on school nights, and the boys had to be in bed by 8:30 p.m.

Knight describes his parents as very supportive and notes that they play a major role in his life. Both his mother and father are members of historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, collectively referred to as “The Divine Nine”: his father is a mem-

ber of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and his mother is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

When Knight decided that he wanted to become a DJ, he turned to his parents for financial support to buy equipment.

“My parents would help me get bookings for Greek events, and they would support me by showing up and cheering me on,” said Knight, adding that his father, who worked at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, would often recommend his son for corporate

events.

Growing up, Knight loved shoes and clothes. Because he had expensive taste and wanted to buy certain name brands, he had to find a way to make money while at Fairfield High Preparatory School and when he went to college at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

“I wanted to become a DJ when I saw how much money I could make,” he said.

At the age of 21, he sharpened his DJ skills after his parents invested in

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Stacey Abrams

By Tirany Reeves
The Savannah Tribune

Each year, the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual Convention draws leaders from across the state to enjoy training, sessions, and a tradeshow featuring products and services to improve city operations and the lives of citizens. This year's convention was an in-person event held June 24th – 28th, 2022 at the Savannah Convention Center.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) addressed



the crowd on Sunday, June 26th a day ahead of his November Election opponent in the governor's race, Stacey Abrams (DGA), who spoke on Monday, June 27th. Kemp focused on his current record in the state

of Georgia, including the upcoming Bryan County Hyundai plant and the allocation of school safety grants. He also mentions plans to bestow more school safety funding efforts, including training for school resource officers.

Georgia Democratic nominee for governor, Stacey Abrams, who is running against incumbent Brian Kemp after a nar-

rowly failed election run in 2018 came prepared for serious campaign questions. With the Supreme Court overturning a major decision in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case after nearly 50 years on June 24th, Abrams has been vocal about her abortion stance changing from pro-life to pro-choice despite being raised in a very religious household. She also men-

tioned her excitement to build #OneGeorgia and begin work with local leaders to help people across the entire state of Georgia thrive and succeed.

Both candidates will be hitting the campaign trail with their opinions on the hot-button issues affecting Americans this election cycle. If voting rights, the state of the economy, abortion rights, school safety

and education, gun control and crime, immigration and foreign policy, and more are key concerns for you, please show up to the polls this November and Get Out the Vote to #10MillionMoreBlackVoters!

The post Abrams & Kemp Address The GMA Annual Convention first appeared on The Savannah Tribune.

Brittney Griner

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

WNBA Superstar Brittney Griner told a Russian court Thursday that she didn't intend to commit a crime, but in her rush to pack her luggage, she accidentally carried a small amount of cannabis oil.

The Phoenix Mercury standout then pleaded guilty to drug smuggling, which could land her as much as ten years in prison.

She has been detained since February, and officials scheduled a July 14 court appearance for the now-convicted basketball player.

U.S. officials didn't im-



mediately comment.

Recently, there's been a growing call for her release. Many observers have opined that Russia is using the 31-year-old as a political pawn.

It's believed Russian President Vladimir Putin

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Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:marketing@northdallasgazette.com
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editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:www.NorthDallasGazette.com
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Allen R. Gray

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

Special Projects to the Publisher

Melineaze L. Curtis

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

David Wilfong

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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America has two law enforcement standards



Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher,
San Diego
Voice &
Viewpoint

The recent shootings by law enforcement of individuals being pursued by police have reminded many people of color of what appears to be an unwritten universal double standard.

One would think that after the George Floyd murder and the subsequent murder of a young Black man following a traffic stop in the state of Minnesota, that something might have been learned.

We just witnessed a young Black man in Akron, Ohio being shot more than 60 times by police following a pursuit for what allegedly was a traffic violation.

We can still remember another Black man who was shot because he had a cell phone in his hand when confronted by police. The list is almost endless, from California to Chicago to North Carolina, from Missouri, and from New York City where a Black man was choked to death over some cigarettes.

Now let's look at the "White" side of law enforcement, starting with the most recent Fourth of July mass shooting in Illinois. An 18 to 20-year-old white male kills seven people and wounds 31 others. When police check-up with him, he is taken into custody without a shot being fired. Another 18 to 20-year-old in Buffalo, New York mass murders ten African Americans at the Tops Supermarket and he is arrested with-

out a shot being fired.

Let us not forget Rittenhouse, who killed two people with an assault weapon, also was arrested "alive," was tried in Minnesota, and was acquitted, becoming a national hero of the Extreme Right. It appears no matter how much we (Blacks and those whites who join us) march and protest, it makes no difference to law enforcement around this country.

This same shoot-to-kill mentality, if the alleged lawbreaker is Black or Brown, appears to be universal.

It appears that the solution to this problem cannot be legislated because we can't make laws to change the hearts of men. But we must not let each of these incidents become just a

matter of business when dealing with white folks, but continued acts of murder if one is a person of color. We know there are no federal murder laws, but we can mobilize within each state where these "murders" occur and take action against those who do not prosecute these murderers of unarmed people to the fullest extent of the law.

This year's Fourth of July mass murder is a testament to the hypocrisy of a Congress, both House and Senate, that refuses to outlaw assault weapons and enacts weak and meaningless gun laws as pacification of an aggrieved nation. A mid-term election is coming up. We have homework to do if we are going to make a difference.

Will the January 6th hearings result in men and women going to prison?

James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.
Houston Forward Times

Will the January 6th hearings result in men and women going to prison?

If I had to guess, I would probably say no.

Will these hearings change the minds of some people about what happened on January 6th?

My answer to that question would be yes.

They will jump off the bandwagon of wrong and jump to the bandwagon of right.

The in-your-face truth has a strange effect on people.

These hearings, now in their third week, have made an indelible impression on a lot of us.

The culprits and cronies are even more guilty than we originally thought they were. Their denial of the facts is both laughable and pathetic.

As the January 6th hearings have unfolded, it revealed that the former presi-

dent of the United States did put pressure on government officials at all levels.

Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, at the time, testified that the former president wanted the Justice Department to be a part of this dishonest scheme.

The former president said, "Just say the election was corrupt and leave the rest to me and the GOP Congressmen."

Who was corrupt in this matter?

We know the answer to that question.

We have heard many in the Republican Party state that nothing illegal or illicit happened.

Their constant refrain is: why are these hearings taking place? What is the big deal?

How does any reasonable person who watched this attack say that nothing transpired?

Of course, the key words in the last statement are "reasonable person."

The hypocrisy of some Republicans is both dastardly and dubious.

According to reports, Republican Representatives Matt Gaetz of Florida, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Louie Gohmert of Texas, Andy Biggs of Arizona, and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, asked for pardons. Marjorie Taylor-Greene of Georgia is also included in this report.

Republican Representative Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, who is a member of the committee said, "The president must not use his political influence to use the Department of Justice to his advantage."

The former president's vile and incendiary comments on January 6th led to charges and jail time for many participants.

Some could make a valid argument that he is responsible for their actions and subsequent consequences.

According to *Time Magazine*, more than 840 people have been arrested, with

more to come. Roughly 185 individuals have received sentences, with more awaiting trials.

Those awaiting arrests and trials are anxious and nervous. If I was one of them, I wouldn't make any long-range plans. If you did the crime, then you must do the time.

As the January 6th hearings continue, more people will testify, and more evidence will come out.

If you are a doubter, then just keep watching!

What will be the ramifications of the January 6th hearings?

Right now, we don't know.

However, remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

The post Will the January 6th Hearings Result in Men and Women Going to Prison? appeared first on Houston Forward Times.

Keep up with the news

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Houston Health Department confirms second Monkeypox case

HOUSTON – The Houston Health Department announced a confirmed second monkeypox infection in a Houston resident with recent international travel.

There is no known connection between this and the previously reported resident.

The threat of monkeypox to Houston remains low. Monkeypox is rare and doesn't spread easily between people without close, personal, skin-to-skin contact.

The department's lab conducted orthopoxvirus testing and the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-



The illness lasts two to four weeks. It can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash fully heals and a fresh layer of skin has formed. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

vention (CDC) provided confirmatory testing results.

The resident developed symptoms after returning from travel and is experiencing a mild illness. The

resident did not require hospitalization and is isolating at home. Privacy laws prohibit the department from disclosing personal information or further details.

Epidemiologists with the department will reach out to people who had direct close contact with the resident while infectious.

Monkeypox typically begins as a flu-like illness such as fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, chills and exhaustion, and swollen lymph nodes. One to three days after the appearance of fever, a rash develops — often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body.

It also can spread from person to person through prolonged face-to-face contact or close contact

with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. Contact with items such as clothing or linens that previously touched the rash or body fluids is another way monkeypox spreads.

The illness lasts two to four weeks. It can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash fully heals and a fresh layer of skin has formed.

Pregnant women and children as well as persons with complicated medical conditions are at increased risk of serious complications from monkeypox.

Anyone who develops these symptoms should iso-

late themselves from others to prevent or minimize the risk of spread of illness to others and seek medical attention to be evaluated for potential testing.

People planning international travel can review the CDC's current recommendations for monkeypox and other communicable diseases for their intended destinations at <https://www.wnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>.

The post Houston Health Department Confirms Second Monkeypox Case appeared first on Houston Forward Times.

Advocates intensify focus on eliminating childhood lead exposure

By Sam P.K. Collins
Word In Black
Sacramento Observer

Earlier this year, the District branch of the NAACP launched a campaign urging D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) and the D.C. Council to reduce children's exposure to lead, whether they're at home or in school.

Since the turn of the century, based upon the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority's initial efforts to replace lead pipes in the District, lead exposure has been a hot-button issue — especially in connection with school-aged children and



Over the last five years, the DC Department of General Services (DGS) has recorded 65 instances when drinking water in District schools had lead readings of more than 5 ppb. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

expectant mothers. Both populations, when exposed to lead, remain at a high risk of developing health problems.

In an appeal to District leaders, NAACP Washington, D.C. Branch President Akosua Ali, along with

nearly two dozen advocates, cited DC Water's capital improvement plan that left 80% of lead replacement efforts in the hands of District residents who would be required to enroll in a government program.

The status quo, Ali said, places the administrative burden on lower-income and less-informed residents.

Ali has since championed legislation introduced by D.C. Council member Janeese Lewis George (D-Ward 4) and six of her council colleagues. If passed, the Green New Deal for a Lead-Free DC Amendment Act ramps up the removal of hazardous lead service lines on private and public

land while expanding the District's lead remediation workforce via the D.C. Infrastructure Academy.

In the interim, Ali continues to urge the District government to bring lead removal programs to residents and increase access to water filters.

"It would be a safe analysis to state that [some of the] lead service lines go into our schools," Ali said. "The government would have to look into clusters,

blocks and communities. Infrastructure aside, the government has to bring the programs to the people."

Looking into District Schools and Daycares

Legislation approved by the D.C. Council in 2017 designates 5 parts per billion (ppb) as the threshold for filter replacement and lead remediation in District schools but many advocates cite any kind of lead

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would free Griner if the United States did likewise for convicted arms dealer Victor Bout.

It's unknown whether Griner's guilty plea is part of an overall strategy to bring her home, with the thought of not dragging out the court case and lessening the spotlight.

On July 4, President Joe Biden received a letter from Griner pleading for his

help getting her home. A day later, Cherelle Griner, the WNBA player's wife, went on national television to express frustration that she hadn't been in touch with the White House about Brittney.

On July 6, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with Cherelle Griner via telephone and reassured her that the administration is continuing to work to

bring her loved one home.

"While I will remain concerned and outspoken until she is back home, I am hopeful in knowing that the President read my wife's letter and took the time to respond," Cherelle Griner said. "I know BG will be able to find comfort in knowing she has not been forgotten."

Biden shared with Cherelle Griner a letter he planned to send to Brittney.

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Roe decision could spur massive voter turnout during midterms

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The failure of Congress to pass legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the George Floyd Justice in Police Act have already frustrated African Americans and further dampened hope for a sizeable Black voter turnout during the 2022 midterm elections.

But, with the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade statute and effectively taking away reproductive rights, some believe voters are now galvanized and poised for a massive showing in November.

"The Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization says abortion is not deeply rooted in our nation's history. In holding that, the decision calls into question other rights that we thought were settled, including the right to



"Overturning the historic Roe decision after 50 years of legal precedent impacts women's and birthing people human and civil rights," said Marcela Howell, president, and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Health Imperative. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

use birth control, the right to same-sex marriage, and more," Vice President Kamala Harris said.

"The great aspiration of our nation has been to expand freedom. But the expansion of freedom is not inevitable. It is not something that just happens unless we defend our most fundamental principles. And not unless we elect

leaders who stand up for those principles," Harris continued.

"The strength of our nation has always been that we move forward. We must now come together to show what kind of country we want to live in and reject the notion that our rights are up for debate."

Russ Feingold, the president of the progressive

legal organization, American Constitution Society, said the decision marks the "first time that our highest court has taken away a constitutional right."

"But make no mistake, our courts will play a crucial role in the fight to restore federal abortion rights and protect state abortion rights," Feingold said in an email.

"If we're ever going to restore the constitutional right to abortion on the federal level, we must ensure that we have judges on every level of the bench that will protect constitutional rights," he stated.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (D-Oh.) said the hands of time have again been turned back.

"The extreme right-wing Supreme Court majority's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the law of the land for 49 years that gave a woman the right to choose, will have far-reaching and painful consequences," Beatty stated.

"Moreover, in the midst of a Black maternal mortality crisis, restricting access to abortion care will disproportionately endanger the lives of Black Americans," Beatty asserted.

She continued:

"Let me be very clear: government-mandated pregnancy is not pro-life. It is pro-policing of women's

bodies. In response to this unacceptable decision, I, along with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, are co-leading a letter to President Biden urging him to swiftly declare this unprecedented attack on abortion rights and access as the public health and national emergency that it is. We have seen what life was like pre-Roe v. Wade, and America cannot afford to go back."

There's a reason why the majority of Black adults believe that the Supreme Court has mostly taken rights away from them over the past 15 years, offered Alicia Garza, principal at Black to the Future Action Fund, a national organization dedicated to making Black communities powerful in politics.

"We have seen this body gut the 1965 Voting Rights Act in Shelby County v. Holder, and now they are doing it to our healthcare,"

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Akron police release bodycam video of shooting of Black DoorDash driver

By Stacy Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Authorities on Sunday released disturbing bodycam footage of Jayland Walker, an unarmed Black DoorDash delivery driver with no criminal record shot dozens of times by Akron Police Officers.

The lawyer for the 25-year-old's family called it an execution, telling media members that police fired 90 shots, hitting



the young man "60 to 80 times."

As the video rolls, several officers are seen approaching Walker's vehicle

with their guns drawn. Police Chief Stephen Mylett claimed Walker had a ski mask on and reached toward his waist during a foot chase and turned toward pursuing police officers.

He claimed that's when officers opened fire. Mylett said a weapon was found in Walker's car, but it wasn't clear if it was discharged.

He admitted that Walker didn't exit the car with a gun.

While handcuffed and bleeding profusely from his

wounds, Mylett claimed officers attempted to provide lifesaving help for Walker.

The eight officers directly involved in the shooting had been placed on administrative leave.

"It was difficult to watch, and shocking," Mylett stated. "I'm not going to pass judgment."

The chief and Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan commended Walker's family for calling for peaceful demonstrations.

"The video is heartbreak-

ing, it's hard to take in," Horrigan said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and the FBI field office in Akron issued joint statements noting that they were "closely monitoring and reviewing the circumstances."

"The FBI continues to coordinate with state and local partners to provide resources and specialized skills," officials wrote in the statement. "If the evi-

dence reveals potential violations of federal criminal statutes, the Justice Department will take appropriate action."

In attempt to quell tensions, Horrigan announced the cancellation of Akron's Fourth of July Festival.

Walker's family attorney Bobby DiCello called for a federal investigation.

"The video is brutal," DiCello asserted. "It's going to stir up some passion. It's going to make people uneasy."

Biden issues executive order on abortion following Roe decision

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

With intense pressure from Democrats and constituents nationwide, President Biden on Friday signed an executive order attempting to ensure access to contraception and protect abortion services.

Biden said he's ordering U.S. Health and Human

Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to take action to safeguard access to abortion care and emergency medical assistance.

Biden said he's asked Becerra to increase outreach and public education efforts, and to engage private attorneys to represent patients.

He wants Becerra to report back to the White House within a month.

Protests and outcry have dominated the political sphere since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last month, triggering immediate bans on abortion in some states.

Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer urged Biden to "pull out all the stops" to allow Americans to cross the border to Canada to use abortion pills. "In this perilous, pre-

carious moment for women's fundamental rights, we need to be creative and take bold action," Whitmer said in a statement.

Biden has said he's without authority to do anything about trying to reverse the high court's decision.

He previously noted that an executive order would fall short of any meaningful impact on the ruling.

"No executive action

from the president can do that," Biden said last month when asking Congress to codify Roe v. Wade.

However, the president's order seeks to help by safeguarding the privacy of patients and their information.

According to a fact sheet provided by the White House, Biden's order "takes additional steps to protect patient privacy, including by addressing the trans-

fer and sales of sensitive health-related data, combatting digital surveillance related to reproductive health care services, and protecting people seeking reproductive health care from inaccurate information, fraudulent schemes, or deceptive practices."

The fact sheet noted that the order would:

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Foundation offers grant to support first-year STEM teachers

DALLAS AND HOUSTON — Sixteen of the fastest-growing industries of the future are STEM-related and recent research highlights the importance of STEM—which stands for science, technology, engineering and math—yet schools and districts often struggle to recruit and retain STEM teachers.

To address these challenges and better prepare first-year STEM teachers for the classroom, the CenterPoint Energy Foundation awarded the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) and the Univer-



Nat'l Cancer Institute / Unsplash

sity of Houston a \$100,000 grant to launch the CenterPoint Energy New Teacher Academy.

Designed for pre-service

teachers graduating from the University of Houston, the university will recruit and select participants for the academy. Those cho-

sen will receive in-person, summer professional development, annual STEM training with NMSI, and networking opportunities that connect new teachers with second-year and master teachers—providing ongoing support and resources at no cost.

“Teaching is an incredibly demanding profession,” said Michelle Stie, Vice President of Teaching and Learning at NMSI. “While schools and districts are feeling the effects of staffing shortages more than ever, recruiting and retaining STEM teachers is a lin-

gering challenge and even more difficult in high-poverty schools and districts. The grant from CenterPoint Energy plays a significant role in not only addressing this, but also exposing students to STEM and educating the next generation of STEM professionals.”

NMSI’s Laying the Foundation (LTF) program, a core component of the annual STEM training that participants receive, will provide the pedagogical and STEM content support needed for effective instruction in today’s classroom. The program

will empower new teachers to build and maintain subject matter expertise, enhance their leadership skills, and propel students’ confidence, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Afterward, teachers can interview to become NMSI Coaches, helping to advance STEM education for all students.

“Quality induction programs are essential for the success and retention of beginning teachers,” said Dr. Paige Evans, clinical professor and co-director

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- Protect Consumers from Privacy Violations and Fraudulent and Deceptive Practices.

- The President has asked the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission to consider taking steps to protect consumers’ privacy when seeking information about and provision of reproductive health care services.

- The President also has directed the Secretary of HHS, in consultation with the Attorney General and Chair of the FTC, to consider options to address de-

ceptive or fraudulent practices, including online, and protect access to accurate information.

- Protect Sensitive Health Information.

- HHS will consider additional actions, including under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), to better protect sensitive information related to reproductive health care.

- The Secretary of HHS has already directed the HHS Office for Civil Rights to take initial steps to en-

sure patient privacy and nondiscrimination of patients, as well as providers who provide reproductive health care, including by:

- Issuing new guidance to address how the HIPAA Privacy Rule protects the privacy of individuals’ protected health information, including information related to reproductive health care.

- The guidance helps ensure doctors and other medical providers and health plans know that, with limited exceptions, they are not required – and in many cases, are not permitted – to

disclose patients’ private information, including to law enforcement.

Issuing a how-to guide for consumers on steps they can take to make sure they’re protecting their personal data on mobile apps, the White House said.

The Executive Order addresses the heightened risk related to seeking and providing reproductive health care and would:

- Protect Patients, Providers, and Clinics.

- The Administration will ensure the safety of patients, providers, and third parties, and to protect the

security of other entities that are providing, dispensing, or delivering reproductive health care services.

- This charge includes efforts to protect mobile clinics, which have been deployed to borders to offer care for out-of-state patients.

To ensure the Federal government takes a swift and coordinated approach to addressing reproductive rights and protecting access to reproductive health care, the President’s Executive Order would:

- Establish an Interagency Task Force.

- The President has directed HHS and the White House Gender Policy Council to establish and lead an interagency Task Force on Reproductive Health Care Access, responsible for coordinating Federal interagency policymaking and program development.

- This Task Force will also include the Attorney General. In addition, the Attorney General will provide technical assistance to states affording legal protection to out-of-state patients as well as providers who offer legal reproductive health care.

KNIGHT, from Page 2

turntables for him. He also watched videos on YouTube, where he learned the basics of mixing. Eventually, he had the opportunity to shadow a few DJs and learned how to hook up speakers and better work his turntables.

Word of Mouth

Becoming a DJ enabled Knight to both express himself through fashion and earn money. While in college, a lot of his income came from selling CDs and mixtapes to students, as well as through his bookings, most of which came from word of mouth. Although he was a student at UAH, he was also popular on the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Univer-

sity (AAMU) campus.

“I was always [at AAMU] passing out business cards and selling mixtapes,” said the DJ, who notes that his preferred type of music is old-school R&B and lists Anita Baker, Brian McKnight, Joe, Chaka Khan, Whitney Houston, and the Isley Brothers as some of his favorites.

Knight also earned his moniker, DJ New Era, during his college years. He was known for wearing headgear by the New Era Cap Company, headquartered in Buffalo, New York, that has been the exclusive baseball cap supplier for Major League Baseball since 1934. According to Knight, his

name stands for new beginnings. When a person hears his name, he said, he wants them to think of him being cool, sexy, talented, humble, self-made, and God-fearing.

“With age comes growth, and you have to grow with your age,” said Knight. “Change is good, and it’s needed when you want to grow.”

Knight graduated from UAH in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in management information systems. He chose the major because it was in the business field, and he knew he wanted to do something that involved computers and marketing. “I use that degree when it comes to marketing and branding myself,” he said.

After graduation, Knight

went on to build a name for himself with appearances in Alabama, New York, Georgia, and Texas, as well as in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Miami, Florida—all of which attracted the attention of large corporations, such as Victoria’s Secret, Macy’s, DSW, and Abercrombie and Fitch.

Knight currently co-hosts the “Alabama in the Morning” show with female host Amber “Alabama” Cole on 103.7 The Q (WQEN-FM); the program airs Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Knight delivers an open format style of mixing, successfully blending different genres of music, including hip-hop, rock, reggae, house music, and more.

“God Is Good”

Like many in the Birmingham metro area, Knight is looking forward TWG 2022. “When I received the email, I was excited because [it] read, ‘The World Games.’ It took me an hour to reply back [because] I didn’t want to seem too eager,” Knight laughed.

He was recommended for TWG 2022 by faculty and staff at UA, where he is contracted to DJ for basketball and softball games. Reminiscing, he remembers that his favorite UA gig was DJing a Welcome Week event for freshmen, which led to a contract with the school’s athletic department specifically to serve as DJ for the basketball and softball teams.

“Networking is key in my book for success. God is good and right on time,” he said.

When TWG 2022 event coordinators reached out to UA for DJ recommendations, they recommended Knight. Asked if this will be a challenge, Knight said, “Not at all. I’m very versatile.”

“UA has made me become comfortable due to the diversity the school has, and my music catalog is enormous,” he said.

You can listen to DJ New Era on the “Alabama in the Morning” show, which airs Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., on 103.7 The Q (WQEN-FM).

This article originally appeared in The Birmingham Times.

Plano resident urged to conserve energy, city sets up cooling stations at public centers

As you've likely heard, ERCOT, as well as Oncor, are urging Texans to conserve energy.

The City of Plano is making all Libraries, except Harrington, available to serve as cooling stations.

Carpenter Recreation Center, Oak Point Recreation Center, Tom Muhlebeck Recreation Center and Liberty Recreation Center are also available cooling stations. Sam Johnson

Recreation Center is a great option for members of our senior community. Each facility will be open for normal operating hours, provided they have power.

Oncor encourages Plano residents to take the following conservation steps:

- Turn off any unnecessary lights and equipment.
- Turn thermostat up 2 to 3 degrees.
- Set programmable thermostats to higher temperatures

when no one is home.

- Use fans to feel 4 to 6 degrees cooler.

- Limit use of large appliances (i.e., dishwasher, washer, dryer, etc.).

- If you cook indoors, use a microwave or slow cooker.

- Close blinds and drapes during late afternoon.

- Schedule pool pumps to run in the early morning or overnight hours.

CCBCC now accepting applications for 2022 Business Incubator

The Collin Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) is accepting applications now through August 19, 2022 for its 2022 Business Incubator program targeting new and prospective business owners.

The CCBCC Business Incubator program is aimed at giving new and

prospective entrepreneurs the knowledge, tools and coaching needed to successfully launch a business.

Throughout the program participants will learn from experienced professionals on topics like the successful entrepreneur's mindset, business strategy, marketing, budgeting and financ-

ing. They will also have dedicated time to work on their business with the assistance of certified business coaches.

Graduates of the program will have completed an implementable business plan, be eligible to win one of

See CCBCC, Page 8



Jeremy Bezanger/Unsplash



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YELLOW.**

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THING**

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Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community's abused and neglected children living in foster care.

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Thursday, July 21 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, July 29 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, Aug 12 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug 18 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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



Arizona law attacks First Amendment by restricting the videotaping of police activity

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has signed a bill that makes it illegal to record videos within eight feet of police activity.

The law comes just two years after the vital recording of a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on George Floyd's neck for more than 9 minutes, killing him.

Former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin is serving a 22-year sentence primarily because of a bystander's video that captured his actions.



iStockphoto / NNPA

The Arizona law, which takes effect in September, also comes while police in Akron remain under investigation for firing at least 90 shots at unarmed African American DoorDash Driver

Jayland Walker, hitting him more than 60 times, and killing the 25-year-old.

A violation of the Arizona law could land an individual a \$500 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

The measure states that it's illegal to record law enforcement officers if an individual is within eight feet of an area where the "person knows or should reasonably know" that police activity is occurring or if they receive a verbal warning from a cop about the rule.

Police activity includes questioning "suspicious" individuals, conducting an arrest, or handling a disorderly person.

State Representative John Kavanagh, the bill's sponsor, said that there was little reason for bystanders to be within eight feet of an

on-duty police officer and that the law would protect people from getting close to dangerous situations and prevent them from interfering from police work.

"We are investigating all possible options for addressing this unconstitutional law," K.M. Bell, an attorney for the ACLU of Arizona, told NPR.

Bell told NPR of several specific problems with the law, including that it was overly broad. For example, it limits what people can do on their phones while near a police officer, which amounts to a First Amendment violation, he told the

outlet.

"This is a content-based restriction because I can stand 3 feet from an officer and play Angry Birds, but I can't stand 3 feet away and record them," Bell said.

Mickey Osterreicher, general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association, said he finds the law "arbitrary" and "unworkable" because the 8-foot restriction does not accommodate dynamic situations like protests.

"Giving [police] the authority to tell someone to stop recording is a violation of the First Amendment," he said.

ROE, from Page 5

Garza remarked.

"Abortion bans aren't just about abortion – they are about power. They are about who has power, who doesn't, and who wants to keep others from gaining it," Garza demanded.

"The Republican Party claims to be about less government and more freedom, but that is a blatant lie. In this decision, the Supreme Court bowed to the real agenda of the Republican Party, which is to subvert the will of the many to serve the needs of a few."

Garza added that abortion is a racial justice issue, and the decision will disproportionately impact Black families and devastate our economic futures.

"Black women are the primary breadwinners of our households, holding our families together with less and less. Therefore, our economic well-being, including whether we can get an education, work, and earn money to support our-

selves and our families, is directly tied to our ability to make decisions about our bodies," Garza asserted.

With protests at the Supreme Court and nationwide, the call for a massive voter turnout during the 2022 midterm elections has grown louder.

During the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) national convention marking the 195th-anniversary celebration of the Black Press of America in New Orleans, leaders announced a get-out-to-vote campaign aimed at registering and mobilizing GOTV for 10 million more African Americans to vote in time for the 2022 midterms.

"Let us take the lead and not be on the tail-end so we can show the present-day power of the Black Press," said NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, who publishes the Houston Forward Times.

"With Roe overturned,

the stakes of this election have never been higher – Black voters will stand with Senate Democrats against Sen. Mitch McConnell and Republicans' agenda that would make abortion illegal and impose new, cruel, and punishing restrictions on women of color and their families," said Jessica Knight Henry, Deputy, and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Florida Democratic Rep. Val Demings said she's furious and disappointed.

"I am ready to fight," Demings declared in a statement.

"We won't go back. We must work relentlessly to preserve our right to choose and our right to privacy. We must protect Roe v. Wade in federal law."

The court's decision ends core protection for women to make their own health care decisions, Georgia Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock stated.

"It is a departure from

our American ideals to recognize and protect basic rights," Warnock stated.

"This misguided decision is devastating for women and families in Georgia and nationwide. Across the country, states have already passed dangerous and uncompromising restrictions that put politicians in charge of health care, instead of women and

doctors."

Marcela Howell, president, and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Health Imperative, rebuked the high court's decision.

"Overturning the historic Roe decision after 50 years of legal precedent impacts women's and birthing people human and civil rights," Howell said.

"The Supreme Court's ruling declares open season on women and birthing people's rights and lives," Howell continued.

"While we call on Congress and the Biden administration to take immediate action to uphold the Constitution, we will not depend on governing bodies to protect our rights."

CCBCC, from Page 7

three cash prizes and have access to a complimentary trade booth at the annual CCBCC Gala in December to showcase their business.

More details and the program application can be found at: <https://ccbcc-link.bizincubator>

CCBCC was founded in

2006 to provide a forum for connecting minority businesses to resources and opportunities. Today, CCBCC continues its mission to empower and support Black owned businesses.

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Bishop Arts Theatre gives local playwrights the stage at the First Move Festival

The First Move Playwrights Lab was created to meet the needs of local playwrights to find spaces to develop new plays with other artists in monthly meetings over eight months.

The festival is the culmination of eight months of new play development by the First Move Playwrights Lab cohort of local DFW playwrights.

July 16 - 24, 2022 come witness these compelling stories by a group of talented emerging playwrights in the DFW.

This Festival is also a pay-what-you-can event. Visit the Bishop Arts Theatre website (bishoparts-theatre.org) and click the button for the event, and you will be directed to our Givelively Donation page; any donated amount will support the First Move Playwrights Lab Festival.

On the night of the show, arrive at the box office, and tickets will be processed onsite.

The Secret Keepers

By Erin Malone Turner

July 16th, 2022, at 3 p.m.

Trudging through their last semester at The Right Path Academy is a group of silly, intense, thoughtful, difficult high school seniors. During their last

semester at the run-down boarding school, things get stranger than ever. This Southern gothic/coming-of-age play explores how we are responsible for each other, the messiness of growing up, the price of shouldering burdens alone, & learning how to accept what we've never truly had.

El Amor in the Time of Corona

By Aaron Zilbermann

July 17th, 2022, at 3 p.m.

An undocumented Colombian immigrant navigates love, abuse, exploitation, trauma and family in a new country, a new culture and a new language during the summer of COVID. With the constant threat of deportation looming, she is forced to make uncomfortable decisions and deal with the challenges of raising a teenage daughter in a society whose government labels her basic existence as illegal.

Ursa Major

By Zoe Kerr

July 23rd, 2022, at 3 p.m.

When his best friend goes missing in a national park under mysterious circumstances, a teenage boy must confront his small town's politics as he pursues the truth of how his best friend went missing and why no one is trying to find him.

This play is about complicity, adolescence, and what we owe our communities and ourselves when the

absolute worst thing that could happen happens.

Red Bird Lane

By Terrance Brooks

Boykin

July 24th, 2022, at 3 p.m.

A woman struggles for the survival of her busi-

ness in an urban neighborhood immersed in change, memories, old friendships, and dreams.



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Rockets select Jabari Smith Jr. and Tari Eason in 2022 NBA Draft

By Houston Rockets
Houston Forward Times

During the 2022 NBA Draft, the Houston Rockets selected forward Jabari Smith Jr. with the third overall pick and forward Tari Eason (TAR-ee) with the 17th overall pick.

Smith (6-10, 220) was an early entry candidate following his freshman season at Auburn. He averaged 16.9 points, 7.4 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 1.1 steals and 1.0 blocks along with 2.3 3-pointers made on 42.9% shooting. Smith earned consensus second-team All-American honors and was



Getty Images / Houston Forward Times via NNPA

named National Freshman of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and the U.S. Basketball Writers As-

sociation (USBWA).

Dating back to 1992-93, the 19-year-old joined Kevin Durant as the only freshmen to have averaged

at least 16.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg and 2.0 3FGM while shooting 40.0% or better from behind-the-arc. Over that same span, Smith was one of four freshmen to have averaged at least 16.0 ppg, 7.0 ppg, 2.0 3FGM and 1.00 bpg. He hit at least one 3-pointer in each of the final 29 games of the season.

Last year, the Rockets selected NBA All-Rookie First Team member Jalen Green with the second overall pick. The last time Houston selected players in the top-three in consecutive drafts was in 1983 with Hakeem Olajuwon (No. 1) and in 1984 with Ralph Sampson

(No. 1) and Rodney McCray (No. 3). Prior to tonight, the last time any team selected players in the top-three in consecutive drafts was when Boston, Philadelphia, and the Los Angeles Lakers all did so in 2016 and 2017.

Eason (6-8, 216) was an early entry candidate following his sophomore season with Louisiana State after beginning his collegiate career at Cincinnati. He averaged 16.9 points on 52.1% shooting for the Tigers, up from 7.3 ppg on 46.2% shooting as a freshman and became the first player in SEC history to be named Sixth Man of the Year while

also earning All-SEC First Team honors. Over the final 17 games last season, Eason averaged 18.4 ppg while shooting 42.9% from 3-point range.

In 2021-22, Eason was one of four players to have averaged at least 16.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.50 spg and 1.00 bpg. He recorded multiple steals in 20 of his 33 games played and was one of 10 semifinalists for the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Award.

The post Rockets Select Jabari Smith Jr. and Tari Eason in 2022 NBA Draft appeared first on Houston Forward Times.

Circle T Ranch Music Festival to include two performances by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and a special performance by The Steep Canyon Rangers

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra announces the second annual Circle T Ranch Music Festival set to take place November 18-20 at Circle T Ranch in Westlake, Texas. The festival, planned in partnership with the Perot family, features a three-day concert series to take place on an expansive outdoor stage. Audiences can enjoy both contemporary and classical music as well as a modern bluegrass music performance on the scenic Ranch grounds.

“The Dallas Symphony’s inaugural festival in the fall of 2021 was a great success, and we are thrilled to return to Westlake and this beautiful venue,” said Dallas Symphony Orchestra President & CEO Kim Noltemy. “We are, again, thankful to Sarah and Ross

Perot, Jr. for their support of the DSO for decades and for the opportunity to collaborate at Circle T Ranch.”

The festival will kick off with The Steep Canyon Rangers on Friday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. GRAMMY® Award winner and perennial Billboard chart-topper SCR has become the most recognizable modern name in bluegrass music, most notably due to their frequent partnership with comedian and banjoist Steve Martin. The band will bring their incredible style to Westlake for a solo show. (This event will not include the Dallas Symphony Orchestra or Steve Martin.)

Music Director Fabio Luisi (Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn Music Directorship) will make his Circle T Music Festival debut

on Saturday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. Luisi and the DSO will present a rousing afternoon concert of light classics including Viennese polkas and waltzes such as the Blue Danube.

On Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m., Dallas Symphony Assistant Conductor Maurice Cohn (Marena & Roger Gault Chair) will lead a program of Americana music. Families and audiences of all ages will delight in the sounds of American and American-influenced composers as well as works with influences and styles of the many cultures that make up our great country.

Along with performances, the family-friendly festival will feature food trucks and a number of pre-concert activities for everyone in the family, ranging

from face-painting to instrument demonstrations.

Tickets for the Circle T Ranch Music Festival are \$25 each for adults and \$5 tickets for children 12 and under. Tickets are available now at www.dallassymphony.org. A limited number of VIP packages are available. More information on the VIP package, contact Alex Small at a.small@dalsym.

com.

WHO: Dallas Symphony
Orchestra

WHAT: Circle T Ranch
Music Festival

WHEN: November 18-20, 2022

November 18 | 7:00PM
The Steep Canyon Rang-
ers

** this concert does not
feature the Dallas Sympho-
ny Orchestra

November 19 | 2:00PM
An Afternoon in Vienna
 Fabio Luisi and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra

November 20 | 7:00PM
The Music of America
Maurice Cohn and the
Dallas Symphony Orches-
tra

WHERE: Circle T
Ranch, 2451 Westlake
Parkway, Westlake, TX
76262

Union cries foul as Starbucks announces the closing of 16 locations

Citing safety reasons, Starbucks has announced it would close its store at the busy Union Station Train Concourse in Washington, D.C.

The location counts among the 16 scheduled to close by the end of the month. Stores in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle are

closing.

“You’re also seeing first-hand the challenges facing our communities – personal safety, racism, lack of access to healthcare, a growing mental health crisis, rising drug use, and more,” Denise Stroud and Denise Nelson, Starbucks’ vice presidents, wrote in a letter to employees this week.

“With stores in thousands of communities across the country, we know these challenges can, at times, play out within our stores too. We read every incident report you file – it’s a lot,” they wrote.

In a separate letter, Starbucks' CEO Howard Schultz shared a set of principles

See STARBUCKS. Page 11



Quiltt, the low-code fintech platform, closes \$4M seed round to remove technical barriers and expand access to financial services

Quiltt's Low-Code Platform Launches in Beta to Startups and Small Businesses

Low-code consumer fintech platform Quiltt recently announced that it has raised \$4M in venture capital to expand access to financial services technology for consumers by dramatically lowering technical barriers for innovators. The seed round was co-led by Greycroft and Newark Venture Partners, with participation by Motivate Ventures, Abstraction Capital, Tectonic Capital, Bridge Investments and others.

Ruben Izmailyan, CEO and co-founder of Quiltt said, "Quiltt's vision is to make fintech development more accessible so that more growing businesses and startups can create seamless experiences for their customers. We are excited to partner with leading fintech investors who are as passionate about this opportunity as we are."

Today, as the fintech stack continues to grow in complexity, delivering compelling fintech-enabled experiences requires too much repetitive and costly



data engineering work. From managing endless API integrations to wrangling messy financial data into holistic customer profiles, startups and enterprises are spending precious engineering resources to reinvent the wheel. Quiltt's platform comes pre-integrated with best-in-class fintech providers like Plaid, Spade and ApexEdge (Billshark), freeing up companies to focus on their core competencies. In addition to its unified API, Quiltt provides a suite of

no-code UI modules to allow anyone to rapidly experiment on top of its data platform.

"With just Quiltt and Zapier, we're able to conceive and build custom fintech experiences in hours rather than months. Quiltt has given us the ability to experiment and iterate at a rate that was previously unimaginable," said Joseph Graves, Founder and CEO of Round4Good.

Nathan Pinto, Co-Founder & CEO of Credit Mountain said, "Leveraging

Quiltt's pre-built integrations to Plaid and Spade has allowed our engineers to focus on building the best member experience for our customers."

"As consumers of financial services, we often don't recognize how many data services and transaction processing systems are involved in each inter-

action. That is by design, as we would not enjoy an easy end-user experience if we had to interact with these services, but building and maintaining the right underlying connections remains a bottleneck for developers. Quiltt abstracts away the complexity of working with these services so developers can innovate faster and put more great financial experiences in the hands of consumers. We are excited to help Ruben and Mark turn that vision into reality," said Will Szczepiak, Partner at Greycroft.

"As thematic investors in the fintech space, we see Quiltt solving an important and growing problem for businesses struggling to integrate all the financial data and services they need to satisfy their customers and grow," said Dan Borok, Managing Partner

of Newark Venture Partners. "Quiltt's low-code, one-and-done platform is flexible, simple, and consolidates all the data in the fintech stack. Mark and Ruben have the right combination of financial service and startup experiences to make Quiltt a need-to-have tool for businesses and developers across industries."

Founders Mark Bechhofer and Ruben Izmailyan previously built a personal finance app where they learned firsthand about the many challenges of building great financial experiences for consumers. The founding team brings experience from companies like S&P Capital IQ, Chime, Dropbox and Relationship Science. The funding will be used to add data integrations, build new capabilities, and expand the engineering team.

STARBUCKS, from Page 10

and a new partnership to reinvent the company's next chapter.

"The state of the world, the conditions of our stores and communities, and the hopes and dreams and lives of each of our partners are top of mind as I write you this morning," Schultz wrote.

"Since my return in April, I have been learning so much through open, honest, and often vulnerable conversations and collaboration sessions across stores, manufacturing plants, and in the Starbucks Support Center," he continued.

However, skeptics abound, particularly among the unionized sector of Starbucks.

In a tweet, Starbucks Workers United Seattle questioned whether the decision to close one of the

Seattle locations was made in good faith.

The union filed a com-

plaint with the National Labor Relations Board, stating that the company has made "a clear attempt to scare workers across the country."

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 - Concrete Finisher (Paving, Structures)
 - CDL Drivers (Water Truck, Haul Truck)
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Matter opens Dallas office to support the region's booming healthcare and tech presence

-Matter Communications — a Brand Elevation Agency specializing in PR, creative services, digital marketing and strategy — announces the opening of its Dallas office to further support the region's rapidly growing global healthcare and high-tech presence, as well as recruit and retain diverse talent. The decision to open the Dallas office will help the agency not only capitalize on the metro area's growth opportunity in healthcare — with year-over-year job gains nearly twice the national average — but will also position Matter closer to other key industries while supporting its ambitious recruiting goals.

"Dallas and its surrounding markets have become hot beds for growth and innovation, with some of the industry's biggest players in healthcare, technology, education and financial services putting down roots throughout the region," said Ryan Lilly, General Manager of Matter Health. "We are thrilled not only by



Lucas Vasquez / Unsplash

the business opportunity in Dallas' \$52 billion healthcare community, but also the chance to support and accelerate the myriad organizations that are advancing greater economic growth, locally and abroad."

As one of the nation's largest healthcare ecosystems, Dallas aligns with the intentionally broad client portfolio of Matter Health — the agency's dedicated healthcare team — covering subsectors across the continuum of care, including health systems, hospitals, outpatient clinics, pharmaceuticals, medical devices,

health tech and more.

Matter already works with some of the area's most innovative brands, delivering integrated, results-driven communications programs for companies including:

- Catalyst Health Group, the creator of Texas' largest clinically integrated network for primary care providers, supporting more than 1.5 million patients and generating more than \$100 million in community savings.

- symplr, a software company providing comprehensive, cloud-based

healthcare operations solutions anchored in governance, risk management and compliance that enable enterprise customers to efficiently navigate the unique complexities of integrating critical business operations in healthcare.

- Gainwell Technologies, the leading provider of technology solutions that are vital to the administration and operations of health and human services programs.

- LeadingReach, which helps care teams communicate more effectively with each other while monitoring and facilitating care transitions.

"While our partnership with the Matter Health team predates their office opening, we are thrilled to welcome the team to Texas," said Mason Hering, VP of Marketing at

Leading Reach. "Operating out of Austin and supporting provider organizations throughout Texas, we've become very in tune with the community and growing healthcare market. There is no shortage of innovation happening in this area, and Matter will be a wonderful resource to help other organizations like ours tell their stories, elevate their brands and ultimately move healthcare forward."

Consistently recognized for its diverse — and rapidly expanding — population, the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area offers a strong candidate pool that aligns with Matter's efforts to continue recruiting and retaining varied talent as part of the company's expanded commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion. Matter has already hired six

Texas-based professionals for full-time positions, with more than a dozen additional Dallas-based roles to be filled.

Looking to join one of the fastest-growing PR and marketing teams and let your career take off? Check out our full list of job opportunities.

With 250+ professionals across offices in Boston and Newburyport, MA, Providence, RI, Pittsburgh, PA, Dallas, TX, Denver, CO, and Portland, OR, Matter is one of the fastest-growing PR, creative services, digital marketing and strategy firms in the country. Recently named to Forbes List of America's Best PR Agencies for 2021, Matter has won 14 "Agency of the Year" accolades and has been consistently recognized as a top place to work.

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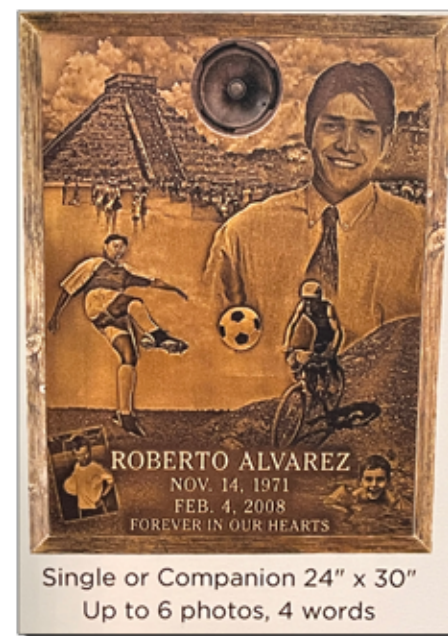
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Signify Health adjusts focus areas for future growth

Signify Health, Inc. (NYSE: SGFY) today announced that it is winding down its Episodes of Care Services (ECS) segment in order to focus on its fast-growing and profitable Home and Community Services (HCS) business and recent Caravan Health acquisition.

The Company is exiting

CMS' Bundled Payments for Care Improvement-Advanced (BPCI-A) program in light of the newly released CMS retrospective trend calculations that lowered target prices for episodes, thereby reducing the opportunity for savings.

This strategic and timely decision allows the Company to invest more to drive

the future growth and diversification of the HCS and Caravan Health businesses supporting the needs of health plans and providers in total cost of care contracts, where they take responsibility for the cost of a patient's healthcare over the course of a year.

The Company anticipates these changes will have a

positive impact on 2023 earnings, and will provide additional guidance in its Q2 earnings report in early August.

The Company's timing and decision to terminate its participation in the BPCI-A program is driven by recent policies implemented by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation

(CMMI) affecting BPCI-A pricing that the Company and its clients believe have rendered the program unsustainable. The BPCI-A pricing methodology has changed repeatedly over the years and has recently included the imposition of a retrospective adjustment that is not based on publicly available data, cannot be ac-

curately forecasted, and is known only long after a performance period has ended, making it impossible to take real-time action. The Company is currently in the process of contesting the most recent pricing calculations through CMMI's standard appeals process and advocating for CMMI to offer providers immediate relief.

INFLATION, from Page 1

"Shrinking neighborhood affordability and the dearth of affordable neighborhoods that provide the necessary conditions for health, well-being, and economic success in many large metros are reinforcing longstanding patterns of racial segregation and creating new ones," concludes this report.

Other new research from Freddie Mac sought to identify the causes of soaring home prices and where affordable homes might still be found.

What drove home price growth, and can it continue?

Freddie Mac's new report found four factors driving escalating home costs:

- Record low mortgage rates in 2020 and 2021 generated a race to beat future rate increases;
- Home inventories were limited due to underbuilding on one hand, and below average distressed sales on the other;
- The number of first-time homebuyers grew due in part to favorable age demographics; and

• Many consumers left high-cost cities for cheaper ones that already had a housing shortage. Where affordable homes can be found, brings to mind an old adage in real estate, 'location, location, location'.

"As of February 2022, migration out of the largest 25 cities remains three times higher than the rate pre-pandemic," states the Freddie Mac report. "The most significant increase in migration has been to mid-sized metro areas with populations between 500,000 to 1 million, followed by smaller

mid-sized metros and smaller metro areas."

The irony is that today, many consumers are paying more for fair market rent (FMR) than many monthly mortgages that lead to home equity and wealth.

The down payment – rather than the monthly mortgage note – is the primary barrier to homeownership for many renters. With a rising cost of living, few – if any – dollars remain at the end of a month for many families. And even if a family has managed to save a few hundred dollars or more, home down payments on the private market are tens of thousands of dollars.

Some home lenders may offer adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) as an alternative to cash-strapped buyers. But the key word in these loans is 'adjustable'. When loan interest resets occur, borrowers should plan for higher interest rates. It would also be prudent to remember that the foreclosure crisis of the early 2000s was fueled by high-cost mortgage loans that left millions of Black and Latino homeowners either without a home or remaining in one with a loan balance larger than its market value.

If this nation really wants to address its affordable housing crisis, then it is time to give Black America a level playing field with access to affordable and sustainable mortgages. It is equally important to diversify new construction housing.

Currently, the vast majority of new construction housing — whether for rent or for purchase — are

for higher-income consumers, leaving moderate and low-income families with severely shrinking housing

options.

Every family of every income needs a home. Effective housing reforms would

offer both access and affordability — not either-or.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Cen-

ter for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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NAN Chapter President

The National Action Network is looking for a President for its upcoming Dallas chapter. This is a volunteer position that requires an activist heart and an interest in civil rights.

The President:

- Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.
- Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.
- Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.
- The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.
- Acknowledges he/she is the primary force within the Chapter in establishing a working relationship and communication with the National and Regional Office(s); ensures that these offices receive all reports, including quarterly reports, and reports of elections.
- Is familiar with pertinent governing documents including: The NAN by-laws and Chapter rules.

Interested parties should contact Robert D. Bush, president of the Las Vegas Chapter, at (702) 626-0158.

It Was One of Those Naughty Flings

By James L. Snyder

Busy weeks seem quite the norm for me. When I think things have slowed down, I turn a corner and things speed up again. So it seems like I never really get a break.

This past week, for instance, was quite busy, and it was even busier because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was sick and could not go anywhere. Not even shopping!

That was no problem. I just stepped up and took the week as it came.

It was Thursday when things began to catch up with me. By afternoon, I thought I had finished all my tasks and was on my way home. Then, I passed Publix and remembered I was to pick up something for the wife.

I turned around and went back, parked and went into the store. I was dragging my feet a little and thought it would be nice to sit down and relax with a cup of coffee.

Then I remembered this store had free coffee, so I went and got a nice cup of hot coffee. I headed to the pharmaceutical area, where they had a couple of chairs snuggled back in the corner so nobody could see me. I thought it would be a great place to go, take a breath and drink some nice hot coffee.

On my way, I passed the bakery, and lo and behold; there were some fresh Apple Fritters. I have never seen Apple Fritters look so delicious in all my life. But, because of my strict diet, someone in our house has restricted this in my diet.

I looked at them, and I just felt them looking back. I could feel them smiling at me, and I must say, I tried to walk away. I really did try to walk away, but I could not.

Finally, out of desperation, I purchased two Apple Fritters. After all, nobody would know, and I could sit back in the corner and enjoy coffee and Apple Fritters. Who would ever know about this naughty fling of mine?

Then, out of the clear, I heard somebody say, "Hello, Pastor Snyder. I haven't seen you in a while. How are you doing?"

Oh boy, my fling has been unflinged. This woman was one of my wife's friends.

"I hope you're enjoying your Apple Fritters. Tell your wife I said hello."

At the time, I did not know how much trouble I was in. I just may forget she ever told me to say anything to my wife.

"Is that you?" I heard someone else say. "Is that you, Pastor Snyder?"

Once again, someone saw me.

"Haven't seen you for a long time. I hope you're doing well."

I smiled back and said everything was going okay.

She smiled and said, "Enjoy your Apple Fritter; it looks very delicious. By the way, tell your wife I said hello."

Two in a row has to be the limit. So, I sat back in the corner, sipped my coffee and took another bite of that delicious Apple Fritter. I was convinced that my incognito was well guarded at this time.

For my wife's friends to catch me eating an Apple Fritter is quite dangerous.

I finished my Apple Fritters, got up, went out to my vehicle and started on my way home. What a day it turned out to be.

I went into the house, put the groceries on the table and headed for my easy chair. As I got to my chair, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage stepped in, greeted me and said, "Did you have a good day?"

One thing I know about my life is that she always asks "loaded questions." I never know exactly what is behind any of these questions, so I need to tread very softly.

"Yes, my dear," I said as cheerfully as I could muster at the time. "I think I had a good day even though it was rather busy." So I

flashed a smile back at her and thought it was over.

I got situated in my chair, and she came back into my room in a few moments and said, "Did you see any of my friends at Publix today?"

Now I was on edge. No matter what I say at this point, I will be in trouble.

"Yes," I said. Then I mentioned the two women I met at Publix. "They all asked me to tell you they were thinking about you."

"Is that all they asked?" Being a little nervous, I did not quite understand what was behind that question.

"We just greeted each other, and that was about it."

She then left the room and went back to the kitchen.

See FLINGS, Page 15

LEAD, from Page 4

exposure as dangerous.

Lead exposure can damage a child's brain and nervous system, which slows growth and development and increases the likelihood of learning and behavior issues. Adults exposed to lead often experience high blood pressure and problems with their brain, kidneys and reproductive organs. In recent years, advocates have deemed partial lead service line replacement projects conducted by DC Water as insufficient in stopping lead exposure.

The District's estimated to have more than 28,000 lead or galvanized-iron pipes, all of which DC Water intends to replace by 2030.

Projects initiated by DC Water involve main water replacement, emergency repairs and D.C. Department of Transportation-related projects. In areas where DC Water doesn't plan to do construction, property owners can enter two programs through D.C. Department of Energy and Environment to receive lead replacement services at a discount.

Since the passage of the Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act, some District schools have undergone lead pipe replacement as part of capital improvement plans. A DC Department of General Services (DGS) representative said given the sporadic nature of high lead readings, the D.C. government has opted to collectively perform remediation across all District public school facilities.

Over the last five years, DGS has recorded 65 instances when drinking water in District schools had lead readings of more than 5 ppb. During the 2021-2022 academic year, only 10 devices in DCPS facilities tested higher than 5 ppb before the execution of lead remediation. After that procedure, none of the pipes tested beforehand had levels surpassing 5 ppb. DGS said that 70% of the devices with high lead level readings were based in Wards 7 and 8.

In situations when DGS detects high levels of lead in school drinking water, contractors shut off the water source, replace the filter

and conduct another test. The process, most of which involves laboratory testing, takes two weeks. However, some advocates, like those representing Black Millennials 4 Flint, have questioned whether school officials erect signs near the contaminated water source informing students and community members about the lead reading.

Other issues of concern for Black Millennials 4 Flint member Michelle Mabson involve whether children are being tested for lead exposure and the degree to which officials have conducted lead readings in daycare and child development facilities located in single-family homes.

"If we know that lead is being ingested at schools, recreation centers, child-care facilities and homes, and we know the effects of lead and the neurocognitive harms, the question is if we're testing children as often as we need," Mabson said.

"The other question is what are we seeing in these schools with elevated levels where students are struggling?" Mabson added. "What's the connection to lead? It does have a

bearing on the educational outcomes in students. We can see that in some ways across the city where elevated lead levels can be detected."

Lewis George said we can ill-afford to ignore the long-term effect of lead

poisoning on children.

"Young people absorb four to five times as much lead as adults," she said. "They are vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead and can suffer the impacts on the development of their brain and nervous system.

It comes in various ways with children who are left with behavioral and intellectual disabilities."

The post Advocates Intensify Focus on Eliminating Childhood Lead Exposure appeared first on The Sacramento Observer.

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What to Do When You Feel Disheartened



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He (Jesus) went out, and departed unto a solitary place, and there prayed."

- Mark 1:35.

With the dreadful state of our country, Black men are being killed by bad policemen and nothing is being done about it.

Two Black men killed eight officers and injured others because of injustices in our society, our economy, the cost-of-living ever increasing, abuses and stress at home and in the workplace.

Sickness and death among us and some individuals can't find a job. Sin is



the cause of all of this. Yes, there are plenty of people that can feel dishearten or down-in-the dumps.

However, think about this, what happens when your car is getting close to running out of gas? You look for a gas station to get the car refueled. It doesn't matter the price of the gas.

You may even complain about the high price of the fuel (I have, at times; but, some good advice from my late pastor, Elder Philip White, thank God that you have money to buy the gas);

eventually you will get gas or your car will stop running!

When most people are hungry, they eat; when they are thirsty, they drink some liquid (water, soda, juice, etc.); when they are sick they see a doctor; and when they feel pain, they take aspirins or other medications.

As Believers in Christ and what He did at the cross, when we feel that we are spiritually drained, we refuel our spiritual lives by praying to our Heavenly Father.

When Jesus was on earth, He was fully spirit and human. Everything He did was based upon receiving specific directions or instructions and power from His Father to do them.

At the time He was not operating as God, but as a human with the same limitations that humans have.

Jesus knew one of the key ways to refuel His mind, body and spirit was by spending time in prayer to His Heavenly Father. Jesus is our example, our role model.

No one had a schedule as demanding as Jesus. He healed the sick; delivered people from demons. He traveled from town to town, often walking many miles between towns and cities.

He spent a lot of time with people. His body and His spirit became fatigued. It was draining, I am positive, to minister for extended periods of time.

Praying is a critical discipline for every follower of Jesus if we expect to have power and victory in our Christian walk.

Each believer need to find a solitary place to focus upon the Lord, His Word and His input for our lives on a daily basis.

If constant praying is not a part of your daily experience, why not start now (today or early tomorrow morning) with a few minutes of focused time of reading and praying.

You will be encouraged and inspired with the new spiritual focus you will have by making this a priority in your life.

If you find that difficulty to do, ask God to help you have a servant spirit. First

begin by thanking Him for all that He does in your life and all that He has given you.

Then ask Him to help you to become a faithful steward of what He has entrusted you with. Ask God for grace and strength to walk through your trials and tests victoriously so that you may prove that you are a faithful servant and a godly witness for Him.

Go to the Bible to meet Christ. Remember, "Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence."

-St. Augustine of Hippo.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in July 2016.)

FLINGS, from Page 14

en, and I sighed a profound sigh of relief. I honestly believed that I had got away with it.

Then I heard her say, "Both ladies texted me and told me they saw you at Publix."

The way my wife looked at me, I just knew she knew

my secret. My problem was, how would she use this secret against me and when?

As I was pondering my current dilemma, I thought of one of my favorite scripture. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto

thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

I have faced many situations where I certainly needed God to direct me out of a problem.

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 jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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NDG Book Review: 'Black Skin: The Definitive Skincare Guide'

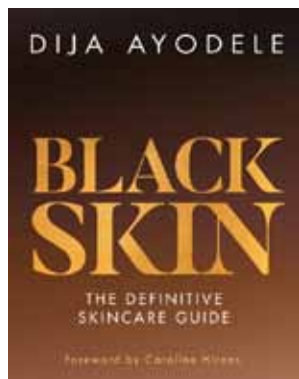
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Inside and out.

That's where you wear your beauty. Your eyes glow with warmth and your smile is sunshine, your heart touches people and lets them know they're loved.

The body you've been blessed with is strong and comfortable. Now what about your largest organ? In "Black Skin" by Diya Ayodele, you'll see how you can care for it best.

Short shorts, tank tops, bare shoulders, barely-there sleeves. You want to wear them all this summer, and you want to look good



doing it. So how do you make sure your skin is in the best shape possible?

Diya Ayodele is a skin care expert and the first thing you should know, she says, is that "flawless skin is for babies." You're an adult and you'll never achieve a "flawless" com-

plexion again. But she has advice on how you can turn heads with a glow.

For centuries, Black women have been "actively told that Black is not beautiful." Ayodele offers history to prove it: more than a hundred years ago, slaves were treated like they "were beastly and put on show as spectacles..." For many Black people in the past, that led them reach for chemicals to lighten their skin, which breaks Ayodele's heart. She hopes today's readers can learn to love their skin by becoming experts on it.

There are many of similarities between Black skin

and white skin; the differences are cultural and "physiological."

Black skin has more melanin that helps protect from the sun, but don't get lazy: Ayodele says you should use a sunscreen because Black skin is still prone to sunburn. Also, "Black will crack if you're slack!" so use a really good moisturizer.

Know the difference between skin type and skin condition. Stop smoking, quit your bad diet, cut down on alcohol, stop stressing, and get some sleep. Be prepared for the things that can go wrong with your skin, and learn about keloids and

hyperpigmentation. Bust some myths, know which products to leave in the store and how to find a professional if you need one, and build a regiment.

Your skin will thank you for it.

Show your shoulders, flash your fingers, flaunt your feet. Summer fashions practically demand that you do, but what if your skin isn't ready for all that? Reach for "Black Skin" and get some help that will take you far beyond your surface.

But this book isn't just for those who are looking for beauty.

Author Diya Ayodele

helps you understand why you sometimes believe your skin has a mind of its own. She tackles acne, skin tags, and vitiligo as well as ashiness and over-dry spots, and her advice is wide-ranging and easily understood.

Best of all, she makes readers feel like their skin is a precious gift. Having that kind of information doesn't at all replace a dermatologist, but it's the next best thing.

Not just for women, this book also includes a chapter for men and children, too. Reading "Black Skin" is something you'll want to do, from the inside out.

STEM, from Page 6

of teachHOUSTON at the University of Houston. "We are exceedingly grateful to CenterPoint Energy and the National Math and Science Initiative for the

funding and support of the CenterPoint Energy New Teacher Academy."

"The value of a high-quality teacher induction program cannot be un-

derestimated," added Jennifer Collier, Principal at Spring Woods High School in Spring Branch ISD. "A well-prepared new teacher is ready and able to change hundreds of lives on day one. What a valuable gift the New Teacher Academy

will be to the educational community."

An announcement event took place earlier this week with representatives from each organization present to celebrate the unveiling of the CenterPoint Energy New Teacher Academy.

"An effective teacher can make all the difference in a student's life," said Alicia Dixon, Director of Community Relations for CenterPoint Energy. "This academy will establish a strong foundation for success, and ensure new STEM teachers

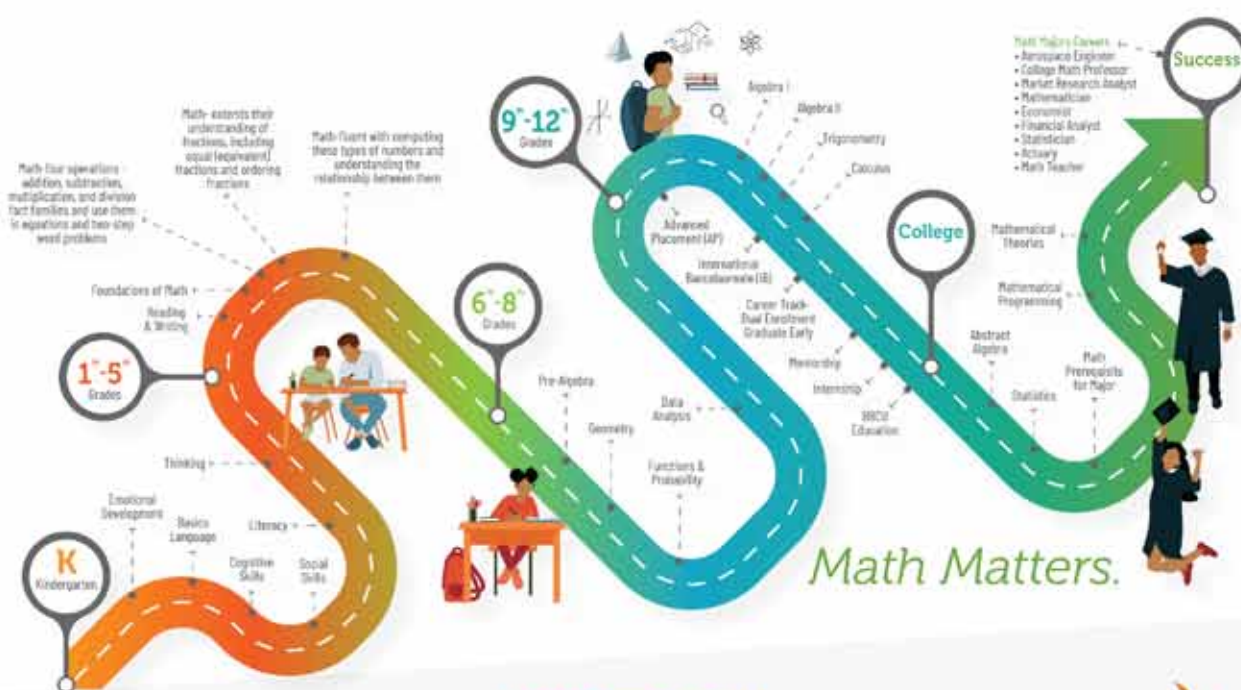
feel confident, succeed and grow in their professions."

For more information on how to support early career STEM teachers in your community, contact NMSI or visit <https://www.nmsi.org>.

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