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DOJ files charges against officers in the death of Breonna Taylor

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Say her name.

Breonna Taylor's family may finally get justice after the Department of Justice charged four current and former police officers in Louisville, Kentucky, who were involved in the fatal March 2020 raid on her apartment.

The DOJ accused the officers of lying to obtain a warrant that was used to search her home when they knocked her door down and opened fire.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced that members of an investigative unit within the Louisville Metro Police Department had included false information in an affidavit that was then used to obtain a warrant to search Taylor's home.

He told reporters at a hastily called news conference that prosecutors believed the officers "violated federal civil rights laws, and that those violations resulted in Taylor's death."



BLACK LIVES MATTER Art on Wrought Iron Gates at Lafayette Park along H Street between Madison Place and Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC. (Elvert Barnes Photography / NNPA)

Three of the officers also misled investigators who began looking into Taylor's death, Garland said, including two that he said had met in a garage in the spring of 2020 and "agreed to tell investigators a false story."

"On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor should have awakened in her home as usual, but tragically she did not," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke.

"Since the founding of our nation, the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution has guaranteed

that all people have a right to be secure in their homes, free from false warrants, unreasonable searches, and the use of unjustifiable and excessive force by the police.

"These indictments reflect the Justice Department's commitment to preserving the integrity of the criminal justice system and to protecting the constitutional rights of every American."

According to a DOJ release, the first indictment charges former

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Diversifying the media landscape

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COVID impact on student wellness

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Inflation Act and Black America

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People In The News ...



Isiah Thomas



Angela McCoy

NDG Quote of the Week: "I am a feminist, and what that means to me is much the same as the meaning of the fact that I am Black; it means that I must undertake to love myself and to respect myself as though my very life depends upon self-love and self-respect."

—June Jordan

Isiah Thomas

Isiah Thomas played basketball with the tenacity not often seen in today's game.

Whenever a team outscored his Detroit Pistons, it only meant a negative mark in the loss column, but never total defeat for Thomas.

An NCAA champion at Indiana, and a two-time NBA champ with the Pistons, much like basketball, Thomas has followed up his on-court success with an almost peerless triumph in the business world.

He told the National Newspaper Publishers Association's live morning



show, "Let It Be Known," that his accomplishments as an entrepreneur result from what he learned playing basketball.

Thomas said building with the right individuals,

seeking sound advice, and closely monitoring the success of others have made him a giant in several industries.

"The first [being a business owner] teaches you in terms of basketball is teamwork. You have to work together collectively to make something happen in terms of vision and goal," Thomas stated.

"The goal of winning a championship – how to do it together. So when you're managing people, it's about giving them a vision and a goal and ensuring that we have the right game plan to get there. Basketball gave me a lot of those

[tools]. Having perseverance, getting knockdown, failing, and regrouping."

Thomas hasn't experienced getting knocked down in his business ventures, always displaying a deft touch and a championship pedigree in boardrooms.

The chair and CEO of ISIAH International LLC and Isiah Imports, Thomas has an extensive portfolio of investments.

His holdings include Isiah Real Estate, Cheurlin Champagnes, One World Products, GRE3N and RE3 Recycling, Sweetgreen, and Popcorn Indiana.

"I started my firm in

1990 to uplift the second-generation behind me out of poverty," Thomas stated.

"We always talk about generational wealth. The best way to do that is to start and get involved in the business. I didn't know that I was an ESG company – environmentally and socially conscious when I started. I was always interested in investing in things that impacted the community, impacted the family, and had a chance to make sure there was some legacy coming behind. My economics teacher told me to invest in things that I like. So one of the first investments was popcorn because

it was a staple in my home. After all, we didn't have a lot of food, so my mom would pop a lot of popcorn."

Thomas' Indiana Popcorn, which comes in red packaging, marked him as one of the first to put colors on popcorn bags.

His foray into the industrial hemp business also counted as significant and rare.

"When you talk about industrial hemp and carbon reduction – industrial hemp takes more carbon out of the air than any other plant on the Earth," Thomas as-

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Angela McCoy

(Black PR Wire) In celebration of National Black Business Month, Black PR Wire is recognizing key Black business leaders, community influencers and movers and shakers who make it happen in our communities. Today's feature honors Angela McCoy, CEO/President of Full Circle Consulting Group, LLC!

"Expect Angela and her team to serve you with passion, knowledge and transparency"

Angela McCoy is an entrepreneur, publicist, marketer, and a successful



businesswoman who has achieved many successes in business and personal life. She works together with solopreneurs, CEOs, and executives to grow their professional and personal brands.

She has worked for new start-ups that have afforded Angela the knowledge of what drives sold-out launches and sale conversions. But what makes Angela successful isn't the mastery of marketing flavors, but how well she can make a connection with the general public.

Angela delivers cutting-edge marketing strategies and innovative campaigns that increase demand, accel-

erate growth and maximize the budgets for emerging media.

Through her in-depth knowledge and insight into marketing, she has distinguished herself in the business industry. Persistence and dedication have helped Angela achieve every milestone she has set before herself.

Angela along with her team at Full Circle Con-

sulting Group, LLC, offers inside knowledge, understanding, and overview of business and marketing tactics to other major companies and corporations. Her team of professionals is highly skilled in Business Marketing, Public Relations, Digital Marketing, and Event Planning.

Due to her extensive practical knowledge and experience in the consumer-driven

market, she is considered a guru within the business and entertainment community. With all that going, Angela doesn't fail to keep herself associated with the world of sports, hospitality, fitness, fashion, and entertainment.

For more information, contact Full Circle Consulting Group, LLC via email at info@fullcircleconsulting-group.com

Dr. Lisa Collins

(Black PR Wire) In celebration of National Black Business Month, Black PR Wire is recognizing key Black business leaders, community influencers and movers and shakers who make it happen in our communities. Today's feature honors Dr. Lisa Collins!

Lisa Y. Collins is an author, Assistant Professor, and racial healing leader. Her scholarship focuses on racial healing through a personal analysis of racialized trauma. Her TEDx Talk chronicles the healing modalities that resulted for herself and others from her research. Her newly released book, Love of Light: A Guide to Peace and One-



ness, guides consciousness, boosts self-awareness and provides tools for living in peace, and her podcast focuses on positive examples of healing practices in the world.

For more information on Dr. Collins, be sure to visit her website: lisaycollins.com.

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972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

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Published by

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North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Diversifying American media ownership must become a national priority

By Jim Winston and
Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Thus far, 2022 has been a year of multiple socio-economic and political challenges for all Americans across the nation. Yet for African Americans and other communities of color, this year represents both challenges and opportunities from a business ownership perspective. In particular, for Black-owned media businesses there is a growing sense of resilience even in the face of continued profound racial disparities and societal inequities.

The communications and media industry in America especially should be one of the leading industries that adopts the "good business" sense to embrace the values and benefits of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This is not about charity or benevolence. Diversity is objectively good for business.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) are working together to encourage the media and advertising industries to become more

proactive and committed to diversity from the C-suites to the decision-making managers. But more needs to be done to increase and to enhance the ownership of media businesses by African Americans and other minorities.

Economic equity in media requires equal access to investment capital, technical advances in communications infrastructure, and inclusion in other industry innovations. As increased changes in the racial demographics of the nation continue to accelerate in the United States, American media must be more representative of the growing diversity of the nation.

It is noteworthy, therefore, that one of the recently announced major media mergers has Standard General, a minority-owned firm, pending regulatory reviews and approvals by the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission, acquiring TEGNA, a company owning 64 television stations around the country. Soo Kim, a successful Asian American business leader, who serves as Standard General's founding and managing partner, em-

phasized "We're open to exploring new partnership models to get diverse viewpoints and perspectives on the air and to make sure people have the resources to do it."

We agree with this sentiment as multiracial ownership of American media businesses will continue to be viewed as a strategic forecast for the future economic wellbeing of the nation. We intend to raise our voices in support of the positive economic and social-equity consequences of diversifying American media.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights has pointed out, "Access to the media by the broadest sector of society is crucial to ensuring that diverse viewpoints are presented to the American people, but racial and gender disparities in media ownership dating back to the beginning of the civil rights era continue to persist." Again, overcoming these disparities should be a national media industry priority.

"At a time when more people, particularly Black people, are distrustful of the media, diversity in me-

dia ownership," the Leadership Conference argues, "has become more important than ever for the functioning of our democracy. Diversity in ownership is part of that solution." We agree with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' position on this issue.

Lastly, as our nation prepares for the upcoming Midterm Elections in November, there are many who are predicating low overall voter turnout. Millions of dollars will be spent on Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) campaigns. Those who desire to increase GOTV among African-Americans and other communities of color will have to engage Black owned media as the "Trusted Voice" of Black America in order to increase voter turnout.

Jim Winston is President and CEO of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) headquartered in Washington, DC.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) headquartered in Washington, DC.

Chairman Hinojosa applauds President Biden, Texas Democrats on delivering the Inflation Reduction Act

AUSTIN — This week Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa released the following statement applauding President Biden and Texas House Democrats on delivering the Inflation Reduction Act – legislation that will lower costs for Texas families, combat the climate crisis, reduce the deficit, and finally ask the largest corporations to pay their fair share:

"For a year now, Repub-

licans have unsuccessfully tried to pin inflation – something the entire developed world is experiencing as we emerge from a once-in-a-century pandemic – on Democrats. It didn't make sense for the past year, and it makes even less sense now: as every single Texas Republican has now gone on the record siding with Big Pharma, and opposing efforts to reduce the impacts of inflation on hard-working families.

"We're grateful for President Biden's and Texas House Democrats' exemplary leadership, once again passing one of the most impactful pieces of legislation in decades – and further solidifying this Congress and this Presidency as among the most tangibly productive and successful in modern history.

"Texas families will feel the impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act immediately and for years to come – as

millions of American families will now see their prescription drug and home energy costs plummet. And the fact that these huge corporations will now have to pay their fair share – all while the taxes of families making under \$400,000 a year and small businesses don't go up one penny – will give some peace of mind to Texans, who've long cried out for a more just economic system that rewards work, not just wealth."

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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First Book, an Innovative Leader in Education Equity, Releases Groundbreaking Research Illustrating the Impact of COVID-19 on Emotional Wellness of Students in Underserved Communities

WASHINGTON - First Book, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring education equity for children living in poverty, today announced the results of a national survey designed to identify emotional wellness challenges faced by school-age children. In addition to reinforcing earlier findings regarding the devastating mental health effects of COVID-19, this survey shed new light on the severity of this impact — especially in communities of need. It also established that emotional wellness issues have become a significant barrier to education for many students who attend schools in these communities — a majority of whom are children of color. Pediatric psychologists from Nationwide Children's Hospital's On Our Sleeves movement for children's mental health partnered with First Book to offer a clinical perspective on survey questions and process.

In the new survey findings, educators report that 53 percent of the students they serve struggle with their mental health and only 20 percent of educators feel prepared to support the mental well-being of their students. Of significant concern, 98 percent of educators say mental health challenges act as a barrier to children's education. And notably, educators are facing their own mental health challenges. Student mental wellness issues have a ripple effect on educators who feel helpless and unsupported.

"Educators across the country are speaking out about the urgency of the mental wellness issues that their students are facing,



Photo via NNPA

how they don't feel prepared to address the issues, and how those issues act as a barrier to learning. Based on what we're hearing from our Network of educators, this is truly a crisis," said Kyle Zimmer, president and CEO, First Book. "First Book is committed to supporting low-income communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and the data revealed in this survey is guiding us in providing educators with high-quality, research-driven tools to nurture emotional wellness and develop healthy habits that prepare students to not only learn but thrive."

On an ongoing basis First Book solicits input from its Network of more than 525,000 educators — all of whom serve children in need — to enable the organization to directly address the needs of practitioners and the children they serve. Mental wellness was spotlighted as a critical problem exacerbated by COVID-19, leading the organization to design focus groups and a survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of the issue, as well as what is needed to address this barrier to education. Nearly 1,000 educators responded to the survey providing

startling data. The results provided a framework for the resource, which is now available, entitled: Taking Care: An Educator Guide to Healthy Habits for Student Emotional Wellness, a free resource created in collaboration with On Our Sleeves. The resource and study are now available through First Book.

"Collaborating with First Book to provide educators with evidence-informed activities and curriculum is one more step forward in making sure they feel more prepared to support their students," said Ariana Hoet, Ph.D., clinical director of On Our Sleeves and pediatric psychologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital. "Educators have been on the frontline supporting children's mental health before and throughout the pandemic with limited resources. We know the pandemic has exacerbated worries around children's mental health, so this need is even more crucial than ever."

According to the First Book study, the top three life circumstances or experiences that contribute to children's mental health challenges are 1) unstable or difficult home life; 2) hunger/food insecurity

and 3) isolation due to Covid-19. Because these three factors often intersect as children grapple with returning to normalcy post-pandemic, the resources First Book provides to educators are essential tools for helping them become better equipped to aid students who are still dealing with the effects of Covid-related depression, trauma, loneliness, and loss.

First Book's findings are particularly relevant given recent warnings issued by professional organizations such as the American

Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association. These groups have declared a national emergency in children's mental health and have noted that psychological strains, made worse over the past few years by pandemic-associated isolation, anxiety, fear, and grief, have caused a crisis in several societal sectors including education. They also emphasize that children in communities of color have been disproportionately impacted due to previously unresolved inequities linked to structural racism.

Additional key findings in First Book's survey include:

- 72% of educators say the pandemic has introduced new mental health challenges among students/children;
- 65% of educators report the pandemic has exacerbated the existing mental health challenges students

already faced;

- 80% of educators believe gaining access to mental health support is a high or emergency priority in relation to students' overall needs at this time;

- 98% of educators say mental health challenges act as a barrier to children's education;

- 93% of educators became aware that a student was struggling with mental health issues due to a noticeable change in behavior;

- 92% of educators indicated they are very or extremely interested in accessing support resources focused on promoting the general mental health and well-being of all students;

- 51% of educators report that a student's race/racial identity is relevant to their mental health;

- 68% of respondents indicate that they take a child's race and/or culture into consideration when supporting their mental

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Black America benefits from Biden signing Inflation Reduction Act

The bill represents the most significant climate investment in U.S. history

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed the historic \$750 billion Inflation Reduction Act into law, a major accomplishment for the administration and a Democratic Party that's now looking with more optimism toward November's crucial midterm elections.

The bill represents the most significant climate investment in U.S. history.

It includes strengthening



Photo via NNPA

critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act, providing Medicare with authority to negotiate certain prescription drug costs, and administration officials

anticipate it will create jobs with family-sustaining wages.

Additionally, the law will reduce the national deficit.

Biden said new taxes would pay for the bill, including a 15% minimum tax on large corporations and a 1% tax on stock buy-back.

Overall, it's projected that the measure would result in the government raking in more than \$700 billion over ten years while spending about \$430 billion to help reduce carbon emissions and securing the extension of subsidies in the health care law.

"This legislation is a game changer. It will create

jobs, lower costs, increase U.S. competitiveness, reduce air pollution, and, of course, tackle the climate crisis," former Vice President Al Gore told The Climate 202.

"We have crossed a major threshold, and it's going to have significant impacts on international climate action," said Gore, long a crusader of environmental justice and a Nobel Prize winner for climate activism.

The new law should primarily assist African

American families.

According to a study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Black households are more exposed to inflation fluctuations than their white peers.

Researchers concluded that if prices paid by white households increase by 7 percent over a year, calculations suggest that one may expect them to increase by 7.5 percent for Black families.

See BIDEN, Page 13

'Hydrate the Hood' returns for second annual gathering on Aug. 27

"Hydrate the Hood" will return to Dallas on Aug. 27. This family, fun event is led by Katrina Chaney of The Dro Guapo Project and is designed to connect with the community and raise awareness of the impact of gun violence on communities.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Meadow Stone Park (2700 Meadow Stone Ln. in Dallas).

During the event, members of The Dro Guapo Project distribute cases of water and juice to the community and also invite them



to sit and listen to music, enjoy lite refreshments and engage in conversation.

"We want to hydrate the

community not only with water and juice but also with knowledge of the impacts of gun violence,"

says Chaney. "People need to understand what happens when a bullet leaves a gun. You can not put the bullet back in a gun once it is out. It has to go somewhere. It comes down somewhere."

Chaney founded non-profit The Dro Guapo Project after the passing of her son due to gun violence at age 27.

In addition to community awareness events like Hydrate the Hood, this organization aims to obtain a facility to offer youth access to positive programming to develop other interests like poetry, art, dance and

music. Currently, Chaney and her team also provides meals to a community of senior citizens in South Dallas.

Champ Davis of Big Ball Entertainment who knew Dro Guapo, the non-profit namesake, spoke to his success and down the earth character.

"We want to make a positive out of a negative situation and bring the attention to stopping gun violence. We have to start somewhere and it has to be with our community and then spread out like this COVID-19," said Da-

vis. "It has to stop people are taking loved ones. It is nonsense."

In the year of 2020, 43,578 people in the United States died from gun violence with 19,422 being homicides.

The group seeks to provide distributed cases of water, barbeque, and juice to youth and families during the hot summer months and also shares information about the impact of gun violence in communities.

For more information about the Dro Guapo Project, visit the facebook page..

Report seeks to 'Unlock the Vote' in American jails

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

According to a report from The Sentencing Project, current jail-based voter programs that rely on absentee voting often experience various logistical challenges.

Increasingly, advocates and officials recognize that establishing a polling location will improve voter access and turnout far better than jail-based absentee voting initiatives.

Sentencing Project researchers pointed to when after the Cook County jail in Illinois was turned into a polling location, approxi-

mately 2,200 people were able to cast their ballot.

"Every year, hundreds of thousands of eligible incarcerated voters are unable to cast their ballot due to misinformation, institutional bureaucracy, and de-prioritization among government officials," said Durrel Douglas, author of the report, and Jail-based Voting Initiative Organizer with The Sentencing Project.

"This [report] provides many case studies that can help advocates increase ballot access for incarcerated voters and help jail officials and lawmakers expand ballot access in jails," Douglas stated.

"Our democracy works

best when everyone eligible to vote can make their voice heard."

Researchers observed that the vast majority of those incarcerated are eligible to vote because they are not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction but are incarcerated pretrial or sentenced to a misdemeanor offense.

However, incarcerated voters often experience significant barriers to voting because of misinformation, the institutional bureaucracy that varies from one county or city to another, and de-prioritization among government officials, the researchers concluded.

They said most states have underdeveloped practices for people incarcerated in prisons and jails to register or access absentee ballots or polling locations.

Further, the report noted that many incarcerated residents could not freely communicate via phone or email with election officials to monitor their voter registration or ballot applications.

The authors insisted that voter education for justice-impacted citizens is often limited and varies across states, resulting in too many Americans being left behind each election season.

They said recent reforms

and a growing civic infrastructure offer opportunities to strengthen voting access and ensure the franchise for every individual, regardless of incarceration status.

"We, as an organization, would hope that every jail would either support a polling location in their facility in partnership with the local Board of Elections and or enable and support absentee voting systems," Kristen Powers, executive director of the Benevolence Farm.

This rural North Carolina nonprofit supports formerly incarcerated women by providing housing, employment, and wraparound

services.

Benevolence Farm also co-operates a Bail Fund that serves individuals incarcerated in the local detention center on low-level bonds of up to \$2,000.

"Elected officials and the policies they implement affect incarcerated people every day. Incarcerated people are most proximate to the problem and, thus, should have input on the solution," Powers wrote in an email. "Furthermore, they are taxpayers, and we firmly believe there should be no taxation without representation for all people in our country."

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Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD transitions back to application requirement for free and reduced-price school meals

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized spending that allowed schools to serve free meals for all students. Those funds are not authorized to continue for the 2022-2023 school year. As a result, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD must return to charging for school meals and offering free and reduced-price meals based on student eligibility. Starting on August 10, 2022, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD will begin providing letters to the households of the children in the district about these 2022-2023 eligibility benefits and actions households need to take to apply. Applications have become available online and may be accessed by visiting www.nlappscloud.com. Paper applications will only be available at www.cfbisd.edu/nutrition. No applications will be



Prudence Earl / Unsplash

mailed to households.

The application will determine a child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and may assist in the determination of eligibility for other state or federal benefits. Only one application needs to be completed per household. Schools will notify the household of the child's eligibility. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers school nutrition pro-

grams in Texas and offers an eligibility calculator at www.SquareMeals.org/ProgramEligibility.

Decisions regarding payment for school meals are made at the national-government level, not by the district, district's Student Nutrition Department, or TDA. The dedicated staff at Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD is looking forward to serving healthy, balanced meals to students in the new

school year. These meals, whether paid, free, or reduced-price, offer a good source of nutrition for children.

Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits to Start School Year 2022-2023

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

2. Households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Program Participant

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, run-away, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster 4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete and submit the online free and reduced-price meal application at www.nlappscloud.com or fill out the paper, free and reduced-price meal application and return it to the Meal Benefits Clerk located in the Student Nutrition Office at 1505 Randolph St. Carrollton, Texas 75006. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members

2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member

3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application

or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "Check if no SSN"

4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

Categorical or Program Eligibility

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to com-

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DOJ, from Page 1

Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) Detective Joshua Jaynes, 40, and current LMPD Sergeant Kyle Meany, 35, with federal civil rights and obstruction offenses for their roles in preparing and approving a false search warrant affidavit that resulted in Taylor's death.

The second indictment charges former LMPD Detective Brett Hankison, 46, with civil rights offenses for firing his service weapon into Taylor's apartment through a covered window and covered glass door.

The third charging document — and information filed by the Department of Justice — charges LMPD Detective Kelly Goodlett with conspiring with Jaynes to falsify the search warrant for Taylor's home and to cover up their actions afterward.

The first indictment — charging Jaynes and Meany in connection with the allegedly false warrant — contains four counts. Count One charges that Jaynes

and Meany, while acting in their official capacities as officers, willfully deprived Taylor of her constitutional rights by drafting and approving a false affidavit to obtain a search warrant for Taylor's home.

The indictment alleges that Jaynes and Meany knew that the affidavit contained false and misleading statements, omitted material facts, relied on stale information, and was not supported by probable cause.

The indictment also alleges that Jaynes and Meany knew that the execution of the search warrant would be carried out by armed LMPD officers and could create a dangerous situation both for those officers and for anyone who happened to be in Taylor's home.

According to the charges, the officers tasked with executing the warrant were not involved in drafting the warrant affidavit and were not aware that it was false. This count alleges that the offense resulted in Taylor's death.

Count Two charges Jaynes with conspiracy, for agreeing with another detective to cover up the false warrant affidavit after Taylor's death by drafting a false investigative letter and making false statements to criminal investigators.

Count Three charges Jaynes with falsifying a report with the intent to impede a criminal investigation into Taylor's death. Count Four charges Meany with making a false statement to federal investigators.

The second indictment — against Hankison — includes two civil rights charges alleging that Hankison willfully used unconstitutionally excessive force, while acting in his official capacity as an officer, when he fired his service weapon into Taylor's apartment through a covered window and covered glass door.

Count One charges him with depriving Taylor and a person staying with Taylor in her apartment of their constitutional rights

by firing shots through a bedroom window that was covered with blinds and a blackout curtain.

Count Two charges Hankison with depriving three of Taylor's neighbors of their constitutional rights by firing shots through a sliding glass door that was covered with blinds and a curtain; the indictment alleges that several of Hankison's bullets traveled through the wall of Taylor's home and into the apartment unit occupied by her neighbors.

Both counts allege that Hankison used a dangerous weapon, and that his conduct involved an attempt to kill.

The information charging Goodlett with conspiracy contains one count. It charges Goodlett with conspiring with Jaynes to falsify the warrant affidavit for Taylor's home, and file a false report to cover up the false affidavit.

All of the civil rights charges involve alleged violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242, which makes it a crime

for an official acting under color of law — meaning an official who is using or abusing authority given to that person by the government — to willfully violate a person's constitutional rights.

A violation of this statute carries a statutory maximum sentence of life imprisonment where the violation results in death or involves an attempt to kill.

The obstruction counts charged in the indictments carry a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years; and the conspiracy counts carry a statutory maximum sentence of five years, as does the false-statements charge. Actual sentences, in case of conviction, are determined by a judge.

The charges announced today are separate from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division's pattern or practice investigation into Louisville Metro Government and the Louisville Metro Police Department, which Attorney General Garland announced on April 26, 2021, the DOJ news release stated.

The charges are criminal against individual officers, while the ongoing pattern or practice investigation is a civil investigation that is examining allegations of systemic violations of the Constitution and federal law by LMPD and Louisville Metro, the DOJ noted.

The civil pattern or practice investigation is being handled independently from the criminal case by a different team of career staff.

Further, the charges are also separate from the charges previously filed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky against Hankison related to the shooting at Taylor's home.

The federal charges allege violations of the U.S. Constitution, rather than of state law.

"They also allege excessive use of force with respect to Taylor and a person staying in her apartment; violations not included in the Commonwealth's case," DOJ officials wrote in the news release.

Volunteers for the Plano International Festival gear up as the beloved event set to return on Oct. 15

By Jackie Hardy
NDG Contributing Writer

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members,” a quote from the late Coretta Scott King, American author, Civil Rights activist and widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. TJ Johnson, former Department of Justice Assistant U. S. Attorney, and Donna Hartman, retired educator and former Coordinator of Plano ISD Academic Diversity office, are inarguably the very standard of compassion and their compassion for others is evident in the volunteer work they tirelessly give each year at the Plano International Festival (PIF).

Under the tenure of former Plano Mayor Pat Evans (2002-2009), Johnson was selected to serve on an



Courtesy photo

advisory committee called, Multicultural Outreach Roundtable (MCOR). MCOR was established to promote inclusion of Plano’s growing diverse community and to give a voice in local government.

According to Johnson, the vision and leadership of Pat Evans to establish MCOR and her foresight to see the changing cultural landscape of the city, is the

genesis to the Plano International Festival.

“Her idea when she called us together was for us to think about how can we be opening and welcoming...in particular to people of other countries, ethnicities, and other cultures,” explains Johnson.

Currently, Plano has a 44% minority population, per the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau and 1 in 4 Plano

residents were born in another country (source: Dallas Morning News March 2020).

The Plano International Festival has an emphasis on celebrating the diversity of the various cultures comprising the close to 300,000 people that call Plano home.

For almost two decades, an estimated 20,000 Plano residents have flocked to Haggard Park, located at 901 E. 15th Street and Avenue H, to participate in the Plano International Festival, but for the last two years the city and festival organizers have had to postpone this in-person event as a result of the pandemic.

On October 15, the wait is no more as this popular event returns kicking off at 11 am to 5 pm.

Partakers will be able to come and enjoy a range of

festivities consisting of live entertainment, free health-care services, and a variety of food trucks to satisfy the many diverse pallets of the over 100 cultures represented.

The Plano International Festival will also offer kid-friendly activities that foster engagement, learning and fun. Each year, children can enjoy the STEM interactive exhibits to discover and learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Other kid activities include Plano Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo, Plano fire trucks for children to tour, and Plano Animal Control Services provides a variety of animals for the children to pet and interact with.

Also, kids will be able to travel to different countries via Passports to the World by visiting various booths,

where they are able to get their passports stamped.

“The Rotary Clubs usually works with us to create these beautiful passports for our visitors. They get to go to the different tables to learn about different cultures...” advised Johnson.

Kids are encouraged to visit as many countries throughout the day where they can receive a prize for learning about the different cultures represented at the festival.

The Wellness Fair is also one of the festival’s staple events thanks to major sponsor, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Plano and thanks to the organizing efforts of Hartman, who serves as the Wellness Coordinator.

The Wellness Fair will begin at 10 am to 1 pm at the Plano Courtyard The-

See FESTIVAL Page 14



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Film Review: Comedian Jo Koy hits the big screen in 'Easter Sunday'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) He's the talk of Netflix. Streaming audiences watch Filipino comedian Jo Koy bring the house down as he headlines shows in L.A., Hawaii and the Philippines. This edgy, urban comic loves his Asian culture and now he's sharing that joy in movie theaters.

In *Easter Sunday*, screenwriters Ken Cheng and Kate Angelo keep Koy in familiar territory. He plays Joe Valencia, a successful comic being egged on by his trifling Hollywood agent (Jay Chandrasekhar, *Super Troops*) to do a demeaning Filipino accent so he can land a career-changing role in a TV pilot. Valencia pushes back and has other battles to fight. He and his sullen teenage son (Brandon Wardell) attend his family's Easter Sunday dinner in Daly City, in Northern California, and that's when the real conflict



Jo Koy and Tiffani Haddish in *Easter Sunday*. (Courtesy photo)

begins.

Jo's pushy mom Susan (Lydia Gaston) makes a big spread—food galore. She also fights with her very competitive sister Teresa (Tia Carrere, *True Lies*), which cause family friction. Also, Jo loaned his deadbeat cousin Eugene (Eugene Cordero, *Kong: Skull Island*) money to invest in a food truck, then

Eugene went into business with a menacing gangster who he now owes thousands of dollars. Hey, if it's family, it's drama!

The similarities between Koy and Valencia are so glaring it's hard to discern when he's acting. He even does standup at a funeral. It almost feels like this project was designed to introduce Koy to movie audi-

ences, up his popularity and earn him a shot at a television series. If he heads in TV land's direction, he can use the "George Lopez" and "Black-ish" shows as road maps. Those successful, culture-centric comedy series, which featured comics who invited TV fans into their homes, are iconic.

Actor and director Jay

Chandrasekhar has two jobs. It's a double duty he performed in films like *Super Troopers* and *Club Dread*. He directs this movie like he's filming an SNL skit. The camerawork is immobile, not fluid (Joe Collins). He goes from setup to setup in a way that is far more suited for TV than film. And, the production design (Michael Joy), set decoration (Penny A. Chalmers, Andrea Mae Fenton), costumes (Lea Butler, Patricia J. Henderson) and editing (Steven Sprung) all scream "sit-com."


The entire production seems unextraordinary, until Joe Valencia goes home and introduces viewers to his extended family and lively Filipino life. Mom, aunt, cousins and the long list of supporting characters grow on you. The food envy between the sisters, the cousins who worship the comedian's fame, the teen girl (Eva Noblezada)

who befriends his son and the ex-girlfriend Vanessa (Tiffany Haddish) who is now a very profane police-woman ... all these subplots become increasingly amusing and charming.

It's like you're the guest who came to a dinner and family members misbehaved on purpose. By the time the clan sheds their rancor, pulls it together and belts out the karaoke classic "I Got a Feeling," by Black Eyed Peas, you're completely immersed. Warm emotions come over you and last until the film ends. Think *Soul Food*, *This Christmas* and the crazy *A Madea Christmas*.

Jo Koy's vibrant spirit leaves a lasting impression. As the comic ambassador for Filipino culture, he's ready for new showcases and this serviceable film is living proof.

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



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'The Book of Mormon' to play one-week engagement at Fair Park in Dallas

Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America (BAA) have announced the National Tour of THE BOOK OF MORMON, winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical, will play a strictly limited one-week engagement from August 1, 2023 through August 6, 2023 at the Music Hall at Fair Park in Dallas. The only way to guarantee seats at this time is to add THE BOOK OF MORMON as a Season Option when you subscribe to the 2022-2023 Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas, on sale now. Single ticket information will be announced at a later date. Tickets are now available to groups. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing Groups@BroadwayDallas.org.

THE BOOK OF MORMON features book, music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez and Matt Stone. The Broadway production is directed by Parker and Casey Nicholaw, and choreographed by Nicholaw. Set design is by three-time Tony Award winner Scott Pask, costume design is by two-time Tony Award winner Ann Roth, lighting design is by five-time Tony Award winner Brian MacDevitt and sound design is by two-time Tony Award winner Brian Ronan. Orchestrations are by Tony Award winner Larry Hochman and two-time Tony Award winner Stephen Oremus. Music direction and vocal arrangements are by Oremus.

Since opening on March

24, 2011, THE BOOK OF MORMON has become one of the most successful shows in Broadway history, breaking the Eugene O'Neill Theatre house record more than 50 times. In addition to nine Tony Awards including Best Musical and the Grammy for Best Musical Theatre Album, THE BOOK OF MORMON won five Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, the NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the Drama League Award for Best Musical and four Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Musical.

The West End production opened in February 2013, winning four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical, and breaking the record for the highest single day of sales in West End history. The first-ever UK and European tour launched in Manchester in June 2019, winning 'Best Theatre Show' at the Manchester Evening News City Life Awards before touring throughout the UK and Europe.

THE BOOK OF MORMON has been performed on three continents and has won over 30 international awards. The musical has smashed long-standing box office records in New York, London, Melbourne, Sydney and in cities across the U.S. and the world.

The Original Broadway Cast Recording for THE BOOK OF MORMON, winner of the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, is available on Ghostlight Records.

NETWORKS PRESEN-

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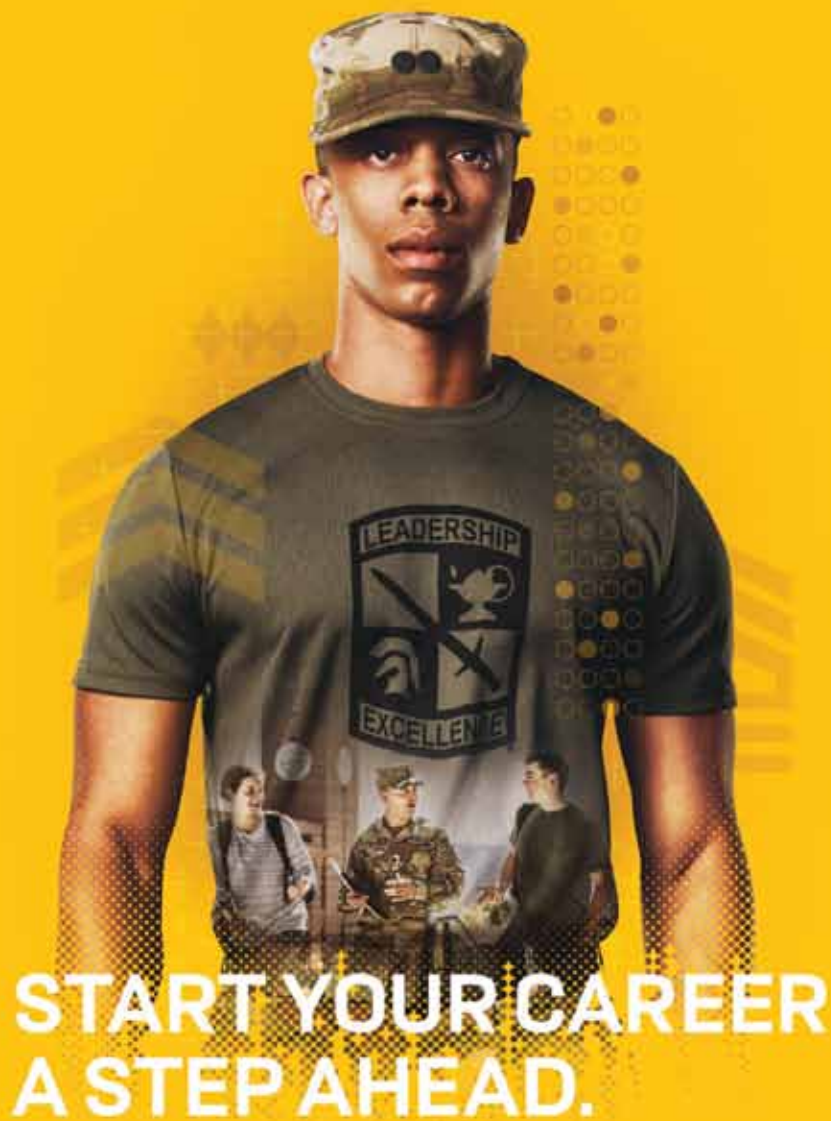
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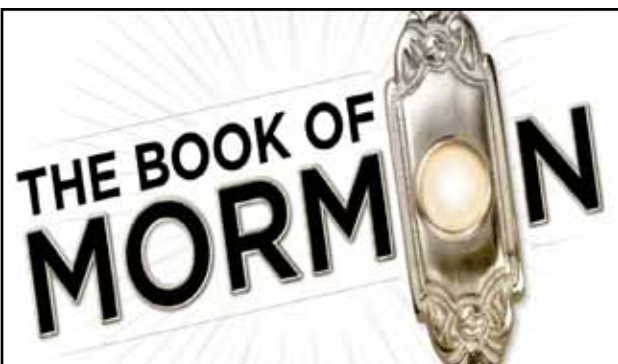


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NDG Book Review: 'Do the Work! An Antiracist Activity Book'

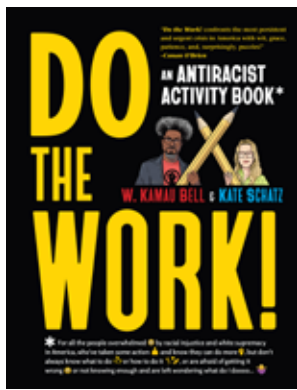
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You're almost out.

Out of energy, ideas, motivation, totally depleted from all you've been doing lately. Seeing racism, acting against inequality, speaking out against it, fighting for your friends and family, it all takes a toll and when you're just plain tired, you need something to help you focus. You need "Do the Work!" by W. Kamau Bell & Kate Schatz to energize you.

So you've been fighting racism and, at this point, you're simply "exhausted" over it all. This process isn't easy and eliminating racism won't happen overnight, but take a breath. This book is meant to help you in many ways. For sure, it'll help white people – but it's also for anyone who needs ideas on fixing what's broken.

The first thing to do is to talk about it. Having a discussion on racism and why white people do this or Black people do that may seem scary, but conversation helps sort thoughts and



foster an understanding. It also helps clear the air, if you talk respectfully.

Do you know your privileges? If you're white, you probably grew up not even realizing that you have any – but you do. Acknowledging that is hard – these are the things that benefit you, after all – and to "check your privilege" is necessary before moving forward. You'll also want to know that privilege is fluid.

Learn how to spot racism when it's hidden, because what you see every day is "just the tip of the iceberg." Remember that you don't hate history, you "hate history class!" Get to know some heroes who already "did the work." Learn how

Jim Crow laws and redlining worked to entrench racism in the last century, and how gerrymandering does it now. Make a protest sign, play some games, take a quiz or two, color a page with markers or crayons. Know the history of policing Black people. "Get dirty" by being an ally. Remember that you're going to make mistakes and you "might not win."

The seriousness of both subject and effort aside, "Do the Work!" is actually quite a fun book. Authors W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz use humor, facts, and (beware!) four-letter words to get their points across, but this book also offers breathing-room relief from the anti-racism job in the form of relaxing playtime, quizzes, places to draw or fill-in-the-blanks, slots for note-taking, and informative games to try.

That doesn't make it fluffy, though. Surrounding the fun & games are firm words that white people and allies need to read,

See WORK, Page 13



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NAARC administrator delivers keynote at global reparations conference

BOGOTA, Colombia (IBW21.org) – National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) Administrator Don Rojas delivered the keynote address last week at a Global Reparations session that was part of the Inaugural activities celebrating newly elected President Gustavo Petro and Vice President Francia Márquez Mina.

Marquez Mina is Colombia's first Afro-Columbian Vice President.

Delegates from several countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, Senegal, Nigeria, France and Ghana were also in attendance. The US delegation included Rojas and NAARC Commissioner and Howard University Law Professor Justin Hansford. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Jesse Jackson, Jr. were among the invited guests attending the conference.

Present at the inaugural

ceremonies were several Latin American presidents and vice presidents, as well as the Prime Minister of Guyana.

"The inauguration ceremony was very impressive, with lots of pomp and circumstance," said Rojas, who also represented the New York-based Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW). "But, most significantly, it was the first such ceremony in the history of the country that was conducted in the

open, in Bogota's central plaza, where hundreds of thousands of ordinary Colombian citizens were able to witness the swearing in of President Gustavo Petro and Vice President Francia Marquez Mina."

Coming just days after the historic reparations summit in Accra, Ghana, the Bogota meeting added further momentum to the growing global reparations movement.

During his presentation, Rojas spoke about the evo-

lution of the global movement within the past 10 years and he referenced the speech by Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo at the historic reparations summit in Accra a few days before the Bogota conference, in which he called for reparations for the entire continent of Africa for the harms caused by European colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Rojas also referenced a recent meeting of global reparations leaders with

Vatican officials to address the role of the Roman Catholic Church in the transatlantic slave trade. At that meeting, the reparations leaders recommended steps the Vatican can take to help the descendants of enslaved Africans achieve justice and repair.

Representatives of the other delegations in Bogota also reported from their respective national perspectives on the local work being done toward reparative justice.

Senate Confirms Black business champion Donald R. Cravins Jr to serve as the Under Secretary for Minority Business Development at the Minority Business Development Agency

(Black PR Wire) WASHINGTON, D.C.— Recently, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced that Donald R. Cravins, Jr. will serve as the inaugural Under Secretary for Minority Business Development at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) within the U.S. Department of

Commerce.

Don Cravins Jr. comes into this critical role from the National Urban League, where he served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. applauds the U.S. Senate's unanimous confirmation of this momentous milestone.

Ron Busby Sr. President and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc, said the following: "Don represents what it means to serve and dedicate oneself to the betterment of our society. Each day, he has led by example through his passion for serving others. From his commitment to serving his country through the United

States Army to serving his community through the National Urban League, Don's professional experience positions him as the strong, compassionate, and results-focused leader that the Minority Business Development Agency needs to continue serving Black businesses across the country. We appreciate Presi-

dent Biden for putting forth an incredible, dedicated public servant to lead the MBDA. Don Cravins, Jr. will put his talents to use right away, uplifting and supporting Black business owners across the nation." As the leading voice of Black businesses, the USBC welcomes Don Cravins, Jr to serve at the

MBDA. Mr. Cravins Jr's experience in both public and private policy, through his leadership at the Senate Small Business Committee, Charter Communications, and the National Urban League demonstrates his ability to create and carry out innovative solutions that support underserved business owners.

THOMAS, from Page 2

served.

"What you see at Isiah and One World is how to replace plastics in automobiles. Looking at hemp and carbon reduction, it goes across every business, even the cosmetics space. It runs the gamut of its usage, and at One World, we have the largest supply of hemp on this side of the equator."

Thomas' Cheurlin Champagne is also one of the best. The bubbly is pressed from the first grapes. He's the most prominent African

American owner and importer of first pressed grape champagne globally.

"Anytime you buy champagne, you should ask if it's from the first pressed. That's important," Thomas stated.

He also noted how his champagne allowed him to remain in the agricultural space.

"I didn't realize I was entering the agricultural space when I entered champagne," Thomas said. "I learned that the soil, the

sun, and the farmers make the best grape."

For the legend, it all comes back to the family.

His late mother, Mary Thomas, remains an inspiration.

"We were poor, but my mother was always positive and always gave of herself," Thomas stated.

"I remember walking in the snow with my mom, and I had holes in my shoes, and I put cardboard in them. I looked at her, and she had glad bags over her feet. We were on welfare, but she used the money not

to pay rent or buy food but to ensure we got an education."

With his children and other family members having roles in Thomas' businesses, the legend said his mission for them remains simple.

"We put them through school. They got student loans using the "Thomas Bank," and we require them to come back, put in six months or a year, free labor. That's how they pay off their student loans," Thomas stated.

After that, there are no

strings attached, he said.

"If they decide they like what they are doing in one of the companies or entities that we have, then this is a place where they can make a living, get a paycheck, pay their rent, and buy food," he said.

"If they want to stay, great. If not, they've gained

the experience and knowledge to go elsewhere. But, when you talk about trying to uplift your family out of generational poverty, that's the vision of Isiah International. So the diversification of the spaces we're in is because we have family members and me who have specialties in those spaces."

CFBISD, from Page 6

plete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact the Meal Benefits Clerk in Student Nutrition Office at 972.968.6390.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact the Meal Benefits Clerk as well.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The informa-

tion households provide on the application will be used to determine eligibility. Applications may also be verified by school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the Meal Benefits Clerk will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or

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Unexpected Circumstances

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Hyundai and Culture Brands win Salute To Excellence Award by the National Association of Black Journalists

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif., Aug. 12, 2022 / PRNewswire/ -- Hyundai Motor America and its African American marketing agency of record, Culture Brands were recognized by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) with a Salute to Excellence Award for its OKAY Hyundai campaign. The award was announced this past weekend at the Salute to Excellence Awards ceremony which took place during the 2022 NABJ Convention in Las Vegas.

“We’re thrilled by this recognition for the work we do to engage with our multicultural consumers,” said Angela Zepeda, CMO, Hyundai Motor America.

“To be honored by NABJ in this way is not only an endorsement of our efforts, but also validation of our commitment to engage with our African American

consumers in a culturally authentic way.”

The OKAY Hyundai marketing theme was first launched in Fall 2021 and is designed to strengthen the connection between Hyundai and the African American community through the embedding of cultural references and nuances in the creative messaging. The campaign was developed by Culture Brands under the leadership of Eunique

Jones Gibson, founder and chief creative officer.

“We are incredibly excited and honored to receive this important peer recognition by NABJ,” said Gibson. “To be recognized by the country’s largest media organization for journalists of color, this speaks volumes of our work, our creative and our commitment to represent African Americans in media with content that inspires those

audiences by ensuring they feel seen, heard and valued.”

Erik Thomas, senior group manager, experiential & multicultural marketing, Hyundai Motor America added, “Through our partnership with Culture Brands, we continue to look to connect with people on their own terms and in relevant ways, which we know then leads to longstanding relationships. As we increase our share of voice with the African American market and communicate successfully, this tremendous honor and recognition from NABJ is further affirmation we’re on the right path.”

Founded in 1975, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), is the oldest advocacy organization for journalists and media professionals of color in the nation.

JAILS, from Page 5

The Sentencing Project researchers said lawmakers and citizens could work with political candidates to host candidate forums at local jails.

During the 2021 election cycle in Michigan, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson and the IGNITE – Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through

Education – program co-hosted a candidates’ forum for residents at the jail. More than 20 city council candidates attended the “Meet the Candidates” town hall, where residents at the prison and candidates discussed ways to improve public education and support reentry programs.

According to the Sen-

tencing Project’s report, America’s mass incarceration problem has led to record levels of disenfranchisement.

However, researchers found that many justice-impacted residents, including those in pretrial jail detention, incarcerated in certain states on a probation or parole violation, or sentenced for a misdemeanor, are eligible to vote

while in jail.

“Yet even when the law permits certain individuals to vote while incarcerated, many remain unable to vote because of obstacles to electoral participation, including lack of polling places and an inability to register to vote,” researchers wrote.

They noted that individuals in jail are also often

reluctant to exercise the franchise due to fear and lack of awareness.

Democracy advocates and stakeholders must include incarcerated voters in their democracy initiatives to improve voting in jail practices.

“With the end of felony disenfranchisement in Washington, DC, and the introduction of similar

measures to expand voting to all persons with felony convictions in other states, building the infrastructure for democratic participation in local jails not only expands voter access to strengthen our democracy, it can also help guarantee ballot access for all incarcerated citizens in the United States,” the researchers asserted.



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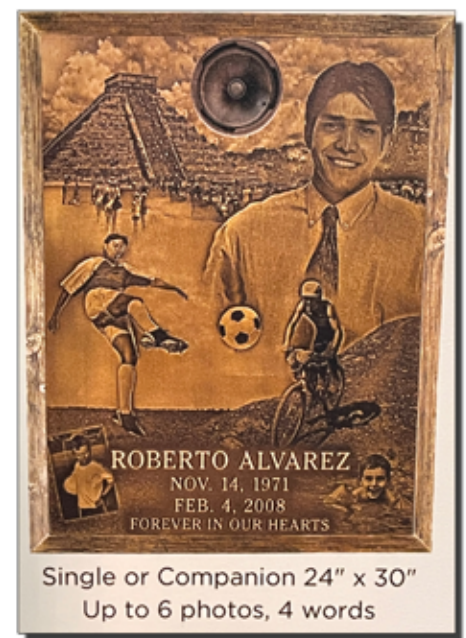
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BIDEN, from Page 5

"In our research, we examine how this informs the trade-off between inflation and unemployment stabilization for White and Black households," the study authors explained.

"The result implies that when evaluating trade-offs between inflation and unemployment, one ought to keep in mind that the costs of inflation may be borne disproportionately by the more disadvantaged group."

With gas, food, and other prices rising, the authors concluded that necessities such as groceries, electricity, and wireless phone service make up a larger share of Black families' budgets.

The study said that Black households also spend a more significant portion of their income on goods and services with prices that change more often.

The result, according to researchers, isn't a mystery: "Black families will suffer the worst effects of rising inflation because

they lag behind their White counterparts in income, wealth, financial savings and home ownership."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA President and CEO, emphasized, "Black America will definitely benefit economically and socially from the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act."

"President Biden continues to keep his promise to our families and communities across the nation," Chavis stated.

"We also note that Black owned businesses including the Black Press of America will also have increased opportunities to expand economic development, innovation, advertising, and new workforce advances as a direct result of the Inflation Reduction Act."

Black families, "especially those without an employed college graduate, are affected the most by inflation compared with all the other demographics,"

said Ellie Walters, the CEO of Findpeoplefaster.com.

"Necessities like groceries, accommodation, gas, electricity bills and phone bills eat up most of their income, leaving them with fewer savings since most of them fall within the low-income groups," Walters stated.

She said Black families are affected by even the slightest increase in price, and with the rising recession, many might have to live without most of these necessities.

"A large number of Black families live paycheck to paycheck and cannot easily escape the constantly increasing wealth gap between them and the other demographics, especially the white," Walters remarked.

"Inflation often makes this dilemma worse, since during inflation, wages are cut, and workers are laid off. These low-income earners, largely made up of Black community members, are trapped by an economic cycle that seems

rigged against them."

Ronda Brunson, an expert in financial planning and credit restoration at Project Restore Bmore, agreed that Black households would continue to feel the impact of rising inflation.

"Most Black homes with car notes are paying double-digit interest rates, same for credit cards. Yet, we are not conditioned to go for better but to be grateful for whatever approval without contesting," Brunson asserted.

"If I am already paying three times more than you for the same vehicle, then of course, when inflation occurs, I'm going to feel it first."

According to the Brookings Institute, the median wealth of a white household is \$188,200, which is 7.8 times more than the average Black household at \$24,100.

Two years ago, the homeownership rate for white Americans was about 73% compared to 42% for Black Americans.

FIRST, from Page 4

well-being (e.g. observe family/cultural norms, design a culturally inclusive curriculum, and foster open and trusting relationships with their students);

- 74% of educators are very or extremely interested in accessing support resources to help them approach mental health challenges related to race, identity, and intersectionality;

- Older children reportedly struggle more than younger children. Educators serving middle and high school students es-

timate that 59% and 60% (respectively) of the students they serve struggle with mental health, while early childhood and elementary educators estimate 50% and 52% (respectively) of their students struggle. This compares to the general population at 53%;

- Educators in urban and suburban communities consider addressing mental health as a stronger priority (83% high/emergency priority) vs. their rural counterparts (75% high/emergency priority).

WORK, from Page 10

ideas to ponder, and statements to make you squirm, presented chaotically with an invite to dip in and out at will. Despite the occasional silliness and the feeling of running wild sometimes, then, it means business for the baffled, befuddled, and determined alike.

Judging solely on the swears and other language in here, this workbook is absolutely for older teens and adults only. You can bring small children along on your journey, but "Do the Work!" is a book of which you'll want to keep them out.



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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.

My Oh My What a Nice Slice of Pie

By James L. Snyder

Whenever things go better than you can imagine, it is always a red flag to pay attention because something is wrong. I don't always catch it, and I have paid the price.

One day this past week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and our daughters and granddaughters planned a girl's day. I always enjoy that day because I am left on my own, which doesn't happen often.

As my wife left the building, she asked, "Are you okay with getting your own lunch today?"

It's questions like that that I love. So, I shouted back to her, "I'm okay with that. Have a fun day and a long day."

I was working on some projects in my office, but all I could think about was "lunch." I don't often take care of my lunch, but when it does happen, I enjoy it. I kept looking at my watch impatiently, waiting for lunchtime to come.

Finally, the hour arrived, and I went to the kitchen to make my own lunch. I was whistling as I left my office and headed for the kitchen. I got to the refrigerator, and just as I was about to open the door, something caught

my eye.

Looking around at the table in the kitchen, I saw something there that was amazing. It was one of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's homemade raisin pie. It's been a long time since she made raisin pie, and as I looked at it it was truly with desire.

Looking at it, I promised myself that it would be my lunchtime dessert. Then, very quickly, I got some lunch together, consumed it, and went back to the raisin pie.

I looked at it, smelled it, and it was amazingly delicious aroma. So I got a knife out of the drawer,

went to the pie, and cut a slice for my consumption. Yummy.

I took it into the living room and sat on my easy chair so I could maximize my enjoyment of that pie. I would take a bite and then a sip of coffee. My eyes rolled in great delight as I enjoyed this pie. I can't remember the last time I had any raisin pie. It was as delicious as I remembered.

Don't let this get back to my wife, but it was the most wonderful lunch I've had in a long time. That raisin pie did the trick. As I sat there sipping some coffee, I was thinking about that raisin pie. Then, an idea came

into my mind that I hadn't thought about before.

What would this raisin pie be like if there was a scoop of ice cream on the top? I couldn't get that out of my mind.

I remember my father used to say that his favorite pie was the one he was eating at the time.

Reflecting about it the thought came to my mind that my favorite pie is the one I'm eating with a scoop of ice cream on the top.

Eventually, I came to the point where I had to surrender to this thought. So I went back into the kitchen, cut another slice of raisin pie, went to the freezer, got

some ice cream, and put a lovely scoop of ice cream on top. Just looking at it was marvelous.

I took it to my easy chair and I very slowly and deliberately ate that raisin pie à la mode. I've never had anything as delicious. I couldn't wait for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to come home and thank her for that marvelous pie she baked for me. What a lucky guy I am.

I returned to my office and picked up where I left off and worked for a couple of hours. Then, I heard the front door open, and sus-

See PIE, Page 15

FESTIVAL, from Page 7

ater, located within Haggard Park Historic District and a Fitness Fair will also be available as well.

"We are honored to support the Plano International Festival in its commitment to celebrate cultural diversity and raise awareness of the many ethnic communities that make up our city," sentiments shared by Mary Jo Dean, Director of Community Relations of Texas Health Presbyterian, via an email response to North Dallas Gazette.

At this year's event, festival attendees will be able to take advantage of the many free physical and mental healthcare services being offered such as, but not limited to: mammograms, flu shots, HIV testing, dental, and other baseline health screenings.

"I look forward to seeing all the people. We have such a diverse community and to see everyone in the same place enjoying themselves, getting information, and health services that they need really makes me feel good," adds Hartman.

This undertaking requires months of planning as Hartman explains a large part of what she does is building and fostering relationships and managing communication with the vendors throughout the year. In addition to coor-

inating the Wellness Fair, Hartman also coordinates securing food truck vendors.

"I work pretty much year round on this. I really start getting ready in January," states Hartman.

After 12 years of volunteering, Hartman advises this is a labor of love as she sees her community service as a part of honoring the legacy of volunteering engrained in her as a young child.

"Mrs. Hartman is passionate about providing health and wellness services and education for those who attend the International Festival. She understands the need these families have and often times their inability to access services necessary for living a healthy lifestyle," adds Dean.

Dean also shared how important it is to have the festival return this year. The two years of postponing the event has been hard especially for many of the residents who benefit greatly from the many free health services.

Hartman advised they are targeting to administer close to 600 flu shots this year. She also advised the healthcare services will include all ages as early as six months. There will also be interpreters onsite to assist

attendees as needed.

Johnson sees her community service as a privilege and a responsibility. As one of the longest serving volunteers, Johnson's name is synonymous with the festival. She has served in dual capacities as both the coordinator and emcee for the live stage program.

"TJ is super diligent about ensuring we have broad representation via the stage program. We want to look truly international on stage and we strive to have performances from all continents. She does an amazing job with that," expressed Linda Adler, Vice President of Publicity for the Plano International Festival, via email to NDG.

In addition to her emcee duties, Johnson also leads the efforts in planning and organizing the Naturalization Ceremony, where according to Adler, they usually naturalize between 50-75 individuals. The ceremony is complete with all the pomp and circumstance of a formal affair.

"An important part of our opening ceremony is a parading of the flags, there are usually about 75-100 flags from different countries. We have the Sons of the American Revolution, the Plano Police Department brings us the Color Guard; and then, we have some delegate of the city provide us with a Proclamation..."

describes Johnson.

In past ceremonies, Johnson has secured Federal Judge of the Eastern District of Texas, Honorable Amos Mazzant, III to preside over the Naturalization Ceremony and this year Honorable Sean Jordan, also a Federal Judge of the Eastern District, will officiate.

For Magesh Kandavivel, Plano and the Plano International Festival holds

a special place to he and his wife, Vinitha's hearts. Plano is where they decided to live and raise a family.

So, after they both successfully completed the process to American citizenship, it was only appropriate they commemorated this special milestone in the very city they had come to call home.

"It was October of 2009 and my daughter was 5 years old, she just started

school in Plano ISD. It was a cold day and I still remember that day, it was so special," he shared.

Kandavivel has joined the ranks in volunteering as he now serves each year in helping to coordinate activities for the children to do at the festival. He best described why he enjoys volunteering.

"It is a privilege to work with these special women every year," he states.

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The Value of Words



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"And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

- Matthew 5:36-37

Imagine for a moment that you are living in Jesus' time. It is before Jesus has begun His public ministry. He is a carpenter in your local town of Nazareth. You have it in a week.

You agree on the price of \$100 for the table and the date of one week for com-



pletion. A week later you arrive to pick up the table. You lay your money down on the table and Jesus says, "Mr. Johnson, I am sorry but the table is not ready."

I ran into complications. Also, I can no longer honor the price I gave you. It is now \$150 instead of \$100."

Two years later you hear about this same Jesus who is preaching to the local townspeople. How are you going to view this Jesus? You probably won't give much credence to His message because of your personal experience.

Our lives have an abil-

ity to reinforce the message we stand for, or they can violate it and make it totally ineffective. This literally happens all over the world in different settings with Christian workplace believers.

Our message becomes ineffective because we have not done what we said.

I know people who, when they tell me they plan to do something, I can expect them to follow through about 50 percent of the time.

I am sure you have had the same experience. Words and commitments are made with little meaning behind those words. However, I know others who will follow through almost every time.

The only time they don't is when something falls

outside their control. I quickly learn whose words have substance behind them.

There are times when we are unable to perform or deliver what we promised due to outside influences. The key to turning these potentially negative circumstances into a witness for Christ is communication.

If we are unable to pay a bill on time, we must communicate with those we owe and make a good faith effort to resolve it within our means. In these cases, God's purposes are being performed as well if we seek to do the right thing.

Do your words mean anything to those who hear them? Do you make commitments and fail to follow

through on them? What would others say about how you follow through?

Ask the Lord today to show you how you are doing in this area. You might even want to ask three people who are the closest to you how you fare in this area.

God, I know that Jesus had a special place in His heart for the poor. He said that the poor would always be among us. How can I use my gifts and talents to help the poor in my community?

Please lead me and show me the best way to bless them and meet their needs in your name, that I might also point them to You.

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

PIE from Page 14

pected my wife was home.

There was a brief moment of silence, and then I heard, "Oh, no. What did you do?"

I froze in my seat. Because when she said, "What did you do?" I knew that was a reference to me. I had no idea what I had done or how she caught me.

She soon showed up at my door and looking at me, said, "You did not eat that

raisin pie, did you?"

I smiled at her and said, "Yes, I did. That was the best raisin pie you have ever made. I loved it."

"Oh, no." She said in a very sad voice. "What am I going to do now?"

I was stunned because I had no idea what she was talking about.

Then she said, "Don't you know I made that raisin pie for our neighbor's birthday tomorrow? Now,

what do I do?"

There just was no way I was going to assemble a bunch of words together in a logical format to respond to her question. No matter what I say, it will not solve the problem right before me.

I wanted to say, but I didn't, "You should not have tempted me with your fantastic raisin pie. You know I can't resist." But I would only have dug my hole deeper to the extent I would never get out of it.

This reminded me of a wonderful verse in the Bible. "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

My greatest delight is serving God in such a way that pleases him.

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Darlene Goins on Financial Inclusion

Too many communities this year, it seems, have traded pandemic worries for a fresh new set of concerns – rising inflation, more expensive groceries, and higher gas prices, to name a few. To those who are outside of the financial mainstream, the headlines are even more worrisome.

Black and African American, Hispanic, Latino, Native American and Alaska Native families, account for more than half of the 7 million unbanked households who don't have access to a mainstream checking account and often use high-cost alternatives to banking such as payday loans and check cashing services. Being left out of the banking system and deemed financially underserved is, simply, a problem.

I am personally passionate about finding real solutions. As the leader of Wells Fargo's Banking Inclusion Initiative, I'm dedicated to our 10-year commitment to accelerate unbanked individuals' access to affordable, mainstream accounts and help unbanked communities have easier access to low-cost banking.

This initiative has moved forward by working with a network of organizations that have deep-rooted connections to the diverse communities that are disproportionately unbanked.

Addressing the structural barriers that stand in the way of people becoming

banked, and breaking them, are the first steps to financial inclusion. It is expensive to be marginalized in this country; and we know there is a real disparity in who has open pathways to economic advancement.

It is also evident that financial education and guidance, and an individual's sense of inclusion and trust, are important factors in bringing more people who are unbanked into the formal banking system.

The good news is that many in our industry and communities have already started working together in finding solutions that make it easier for people to lead positive and healthy financial lives—like the ones explored through the Banking Inclusion Initiative:

- Teaming with Operation HOPE to offer free financial education workshops and provide one-on-one coaching for unbanked individuals and households.
- Expanding our support for Black-owned Minority Depository Institutions to increase access to mainstream financial services.
- Supporting financial wellness programs at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and minority-serving institutions (MSIs).

We know our work doesn't stop here. There are so many opportunities for

us to reimagine what our society looks like as it pertains to financial inclusion that will lead to positive and impactful change right now and in the future.

You can find more information on our Banking Inclusion Initiative at: www.wellsfargo.com/bankinginclusion.



Meet Darlene Goins

Darlene Goins is EVP and head of Banking Inclusion Initiative for Wells Fargo, responsible for the overall strategy and direction of the program. Goins joined Wells Fargo in 2016 as head of Hands on Banking®, and previously served as head of Financial Health Philanthropy for the Wells Fargo Foundation. An active community leader, Goins currently serves on the boards of several nonprofits to accelerate financial inclusion.