



North Dallas Gazette

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Historic Climate Legislation Called a Game Changer for Black America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Consensus on climate provisions marks a historic step in the right direction for tackling the climate crisis that impacts Black people and people of color at disproportionate rates, the NAACP noted following Senate passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In a statement, the NAACP said Black and Brown communities have higher exposure to carbon emissions and all emission sectors.

Therefore, financial investment in climate issues and plans to reduce toxic emissions would be a vital step toward climate justice, the civil rights organization stated.

As the U.S. House of Representatives takes up the more than \$700 billion economic package that includes healthcare, tax, and climate change, White House officials and climate justice activists said the bill would greatly benefit people of color.

"It puts the money with the mission. It's a large amount of money, and the task in front of us is huge," Felicia Davis, the co-founder of HBCU Green Fund.

Davis and White House Deputy



Eliminating pollution counts among the most significant victories in the bill. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

National Climate Director Ali Zaidi joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association's "Let It Be Known" to discuss the historic piece of legislation.

"The challenge has always been accessing the resources to do whatever. We all would love solar panels and drive electric cars," Davis stated.

"This legislation gives lower-income families access to those things, and it will make resources available if you're buying new or used electric vehicles. Also, the funds are now available for small businesses who might want to install electric charging stations."

Zaidi said the legislation would successfully tackle problems associated with consumer costs. In addition, he said it would create family-sustaining wages and significantly reduce or eliminate pollution.

"It's really important for families right now. On average, this legislation will help cut annual energy bills by hundreds of dollars by helping families access technologies that are often out of reach, especially for low-to-moderate income families," Zaidi continued.

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Redistricting is also voter suppression

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West Nile Virus found in Dallas

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ADL exposes Oath Keepers in public roles

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Navy reaches out to HBCUs in new program

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FEMA calls on Blacks to be prepared

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New film adds new light to famed guitarist

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DSO releases new album on September 16

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Sister Tarpley: Faithfulness of God

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People In The News ...



Pres. Barack Obama



Melba Moore

NDG Quote of the Week: "Dreams are lovely but they are just dreams. Fleeting, ephemeral, pretty. But dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It's hard work that makes things happen. It's hard work that creates change."
—Shonda Rhimes

Pres. Barack Obama

Former President Barack Obama declared a family reunion at the White House on Wednesday, Sept. 7, as official portraits of him and former First Lady Michelle Obama were unveiled during a ceremony in the East Room.

"It's great to be back," Obama declared in a ceremony that included several officials and staffers from his administration.

Former presidents and first ladies usually have their official White House portraits unveiled by their successors. However, for-



mer President Donald Trump spent much of his presidency attempting to erase Obama's legacy and never held the traditional ceremony.

"Welcome home," Presi-

dent Joe Biden declared to the Obamas.

Biden, of course, served as Obama's vice president for two terms beginning in 2008.

"Believe it or not, it is still a bit odd for me to stand in this historic space, see this big, beautiful painting staring back at me," Michelle Obama remarked about the portraits.

The former first lady's portrait was painted by Sharon Sprung, while Robert McCurdy painted the former president.

"Growing up on Euclid Avenue, I never could have imagined that any of this

would be part of my story, but even if it's all still a bit awkward for me, I do recognize why moments like these are important, why all of this is absolutely necessary," Obama insisted.

"Traditions like this matter, not just for those of us who hold these positions but for everyone participating in and watching our democracy."

She continued:

"You see the people; they make their voices heard with their vote. We hold an inauguration to ensure a peaceful transition of power. Those of us lucky enough to serve work, as

Barack said, as hard as we can for as long as we can, as long as the people choose to keep us here. And once our time is up, we move on, and all that remains in this hallowed place are our good efforts and these portraits.

"Portraits that connect our history to the present day. Portraits that hang here as history continues to be made. So, for me, this day is not just about what has happened. It's also about what could happen because a girl like me, she was never supposed to be up there next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Dolley Madison.

"She was never supposed to live in this house, and she definitely wasn't supposed to serve as first lady."

Barack Obama spoke of the people he and Biden had worked with and fondly recalled his time in the White House.

"When people ask me what I miss most about the White House years, it is not Air Force One that I talk about, although I miss Air Force One," Obama reflected.

"It's the chance that I had to stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you, to

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Melba Moore

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.
NNPA Culture and
Entertainment Editor

Legendary Tony Award-winning and Grammy-nominated songstress, Melba Moore, has achieved many milestones in her dynamic career. From Broadway to television, hit records to high accolades from arts and civic leaders, Moore has overcome personal and professional obstacles on the road to her iconic status.

Friday, August 26, 2022, Moore received the Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achieve-



Photo via NNPA

ment Award, honoring her career. The event took place at Morehouse College in Atlanta GA. At the event, she also received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for her commitment to improvement within ur-

ban communities.

Moore is no stranger to awards for her many talents and service. Moore won the Tony Award for best featured actress for her performance in Purlie (1970) and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Performance in that same year. Moore has received several Grammy nominations for her songs, "Read My Lips" and "Lean on Me," and Best New Artist in 1971.

In recent years, the Harlem-born, Newark raised dynamo's rendition of "Lift Every Voice & Sing" (recorded in 1990) was added to the US National Record-

ing Registry by the Library of Congress in 2017 as an "American Aural Treasure." The rendition was also entered into the Congressional Record as the Official Black National Anthem. Moore's rendition of the national

Black anthem was also added to the US National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress as an "American Aural Treasure". Moore recently released her latest album, Imagine.

Moore will also be a part

of the 2023 Hollywood Walk of Fame Class, which will include Lenny Kravitz, Sheila E., Charlie Wilson, Garrett Morris and Ludacris. Moore will receive her star for the Live Performance category.

Clarice Freeman

By Jacqueline Brannon-Giles
Houston Forward Times

How many people do you know who are 102 years old?

At S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, we know one.

Her name is Clarice Freeman, and she had a blessed marriage. Dr. Thomas Freeman, a great man, had a great wife, Clarice Freeman.

Clarice Freeman is honored each time she attends the Elders Institute of Wisdom (EIW) at S.H.A.P.E. Community Center. Her contributions to the conversation in the EIW discussion group are amazing, clear, and loaded with wisdom.

Each week, an elder



is featured in a one-page handout, and Mrs. Lana Edwards, one of the editors, is highlighting Clarice Freeman on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Mrs. Edwards, who is a member of the Friends of the African American Library at Gregory School in Fourth Ward, will lead a future celebration to honor

Mrs. Clarice Freeman—the musician, educator, and community leader. Mrs. Clarice Freeman has a large collection of historical documents that need to be preserved and archived in the Houston library.

We salute Mrs. Clarice Freeman, and we love her—a woman who knows how to demonstrate love in the Houston community. She has impacted the world in a positive way!

We appreciate Brother DeLloyd Parker for providing the S.H.A.P.E. venue to celebrate outstanding elders in Houston's community.

The post *The Elders Institute of Wisdom Honors Clarice Freeman as she Celebrates 102 Years appeared first on Houston Forward Times.*



Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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

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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.

Redistricting is voter suppression too

By Ben Jealous

When Charles Diggs, Jr. won election to Congress in Michigan's 13th District in 1954, he launched nearly seven decades in which the city of Detroit had at least one Black member of Congress. That's likely to change this year. Because of redistricting, Detroit no longer has majority-Black congressional districts. And in the first primary election with newly drawn district lines, a Black candidate did not win the Democratic contest in the heavily Democratic 13th. That means the city is likely to lack Black representation in Congress for the first time in decades.

Redistricting is robbing Black candidates and voters of years of hard fought for opportunities. In Detroit, new districts merged Black areas of the city with white neighborhoods across 8 Mile Road. The city stands to lose Black representation in Congress and have less representation in the state

legislature. Knowing what the impact could be, voters have spoken out forcefully against the new redistricting maps from pulpits to street corners to the state capitol and even before the state courts.

Sadly, Michigan is not alone. The New York Times reported in August that this year, "judges in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Ohio have found that Republican legislators illegally drew those states' congressional maps along racial or partisan lines, or that a trial very likely would conclude that they did." But elections are moving forward anyway.

We've all heard about the restrictive voter suppression laws that far-right state legislatures are passing. We've heard about the crackdowns on voting hours and mail-in voting, and even on giving food and water to voters in long lines. But we don't hear enough about redistricting as another weapon being used to intimidate voters

and keep us from exercising our constitutional rights. It is erasing us from Congress and state legislatures. We need to call it out and challenge it where we see it.

Calling out and challenging means organizing, litigating, and legislating. It means supporting national and local organizations that unite communities against racist gerrymandering and seek justice in the courts. They might not win every case, but advocacy and activism are essential to righting this wrong.

We must also keep voting, running for office, and educating. My organization, People For the American Way, houses an African American Religious Affairs network that has reaffirmed for more than a decade that "every election matters and every vote counts" — and that includes primaries. For Black ministers in our network, voting and civic participation are acts of faith and so much more. As Reverend Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., pastor of Liberty Temple

Baptist Church in Detroit said, "It's not about left or right. Splitting Detroit into two districts was an insult. But we have faith and must 'deal with our self-interest by voting in every election!'"

I know that a lot of media coverage of this summer's primaries has focused on one big question: will Trump-style, MAGA candidates win or lose? But there's another question that needs to be asked: how harmful are the impacts of redistricting on our communities in this year's elections and those to come? The current reality dictates that we do not sit out any election. We need to resolutely register, educate, motivate and turn out voters. In every election. Every time.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People for the American Way and Professor of Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership.

God did

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
NNPA President and CEO

Hip-hop culture continues to transcend the divisions that prevent a universal acknowledgment of the sacred affirmation of the oneness of all humanity. As soon as DJ Khaled dropped his latest album with that transformational featured production entitled, "God Did," I knew that as an elder OG supporter of the culture I needed to publicly respond.

DJ Khaled, Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend and Fridayy were all masterful in their contributory segments. At a time when world communities are experiencing increasing devastations from climate change, poverty, and human oppression, what are

the enduring lessons that are being articulated and portrayed in our music, poetry, and art forms?

First, I was pleased and inspired by the lyrical summons from "God Did" that called all of us out of the graveyards of despair and hopelessness to stand erect and upright before the divine God of all creation and liberation.

When the player haters of the culture refused to hear and listen to the truth about how hip-hop continues to shed a radiant light on systemic oppression, racism, addictions, and economic inequities, God did not permit those profound spitters of truth to be silenced and unappreciated. Those of us who love and respect hip-hop know what time it is.

What emerged out of

the South Bronx, NY with youthful creative power, authenticity, raw vibes, and artistic genius over 50 years ago is today an unstoppable global cultural phenomenon that is contributing to a positive and irrevocable transformation of the world's consciousness and demands for freedom, justice, equality and equity.

In the pre-chorus to "God Did," Fridayy and Rick Ross set the dramatic curtain riser with the verse:

"They wanted us down

But look at us now

They counted us out

They didn't think that we would make it

They didn't believe in us."

Then in a forceful staccato affirmation by Rick Ross and Fridayy the chorus begins: "But I know God did,

God did (Oh, yes, He did)." DJ Khaled in his street-powerful voice shouts out in refrain:

"God did

Oh, yes, God did

Oh, God did (God is great)

But I know God did."

Yes, God did. And, yes, consequently DJ Khaled did.

Young people, especially Generation Z and millennials across America and throughout the world will connect, resonate, and engage with these lyrics and musical symphony because of how this hymn exposes the prevailing misperceptions about the so-called irredeemable, downtroddenness of youth consciousness and lifestyles today in im-

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Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Dallas to spray for mosquitos as West Nile is detected

A mosquito sample in Dallas has tested positive for the West Nile Virus. Weather permitting, the area described below is scheduled for mosquito control spraying on Wednesday, September 7th and Thursday, September 8th between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. each night.

Control Area: The area to be sprayed is within an area generally bounded by: 9000 block of Vista Creek Drive (75243): Skyline Drive on the north, Boundbrook Avenue on the west, Echo Valley Drive on the east, and Royal Lane on the south.

While the Environmental Protection Agency approves the insecticide for



Syed Ali / Unsplash

treatment, residents in the above areas should avoid contact with the spray by staying indoors. People inside a vehicle while trucks are actively spraying should remain in their vehicles with the windows up and the air conditioner on until the trucks pass through,

and the spray is no longer visible. People who are out during the scheduled spraying time should be alert for trucks and should not follow them. Residents who come into contact with the spray are advised to wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water. The spray

breaks down quickly in the presence of sunlight and has no residual effect.

Protection against mosquito bites

Dallas residents are urged to take precautions against mosquito bites by reducing outdoor activity during the evening and nighttime hours. Residents who are outside during these times should cover their arms and legs and use a mosquito repellent.

Prevent mosquito breeding

Residents should eliminate standing water to prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of West Nile Virus. Breeding places for mosquitoes include swim-

ming pools that are not kept clean, stagnant ponds, pet watering dishes, birdbaths, potted plants, old tires, empty containers, toys and clogged rain gutters and French drains. Eliminate standing water promptly, as mosquitoes can grow from egg to adult in as little as seven days. Dallas residents may receive free mosquito dunks at Code Compliance Services District Offices while supplies last.

To report standing water or mosquito problems Dallas residents should call 3-1-1. To be added to the City of Dallas Do Not Spray list contact 3-1-1. For additional information on mosquito control, visit [www.dallasci-](http://www.dallasci-tynews.net/fightthebite)

tynews.net/fightthebite.

Dallas Alert

To receive alerts about mosquito spraying in your area the City of Dallas developed the Dallas Alert program to enhance the emergency notification system. Dallas Alert allows for additional communication options including cell phone and email. The information you enter will only be used for emergency purposes. This OPT IN system will notify subscribers to potential risks with information on the event and/or actions (such as evacuation) that the City and local Public Safety Officials are advising. To register with Dallas Alert, visit <https://bit.ly/3se4cxl>.

Landmark research magnifies cost of mental health inequities in the U.S.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

For the first time, research has revealed tangible evidence demonstrating how decades of systemic inequities in mental health-care have yielded significantly worse outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities, marginalized and under-resourced populations.

Released on Sept. 7 by Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) at Morehouse School of Medicine, researchers said the Economic Burden of Mental Health Inequities in the United States Report led by Daniel Dawes demonstrates the devastating cost of mental health inequities in the United States.

Dawes, who counts as a nationally recognized leader in the health equity movement and executive director of the SHLI, examined four years (2016-2020) and found, at minimum, nearly 117,000 lives and approximately \$278 billion could have been saved.



Photo via NNPA

Officials said the first-of-its-kind report, supported by Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Inc., also reveals national estimates chronically underrepresent the burden of mental health-care inequities, which has crippling implications on policies, funding, access to care, and resources.

For perspective, the researchers wrote that nearly six million Americans are not accounted for in national reporting estimates regarding mental healthcare.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey cited earlier this year by Blue Cross, and Blue Shield found that Black and Hispanic respondents had equal or higher rates of de-

pression than whites.

Similarly, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that more Black and Hispanic individuals reported a moderate to severe impact from depression on their lives, including their ability to manage at home, work, and close relationships compared to White respondents.

Blue Cross officials wrote that stigma may influence the decision to seek care, and a response to a Blue Cross Blue Shield Association survey of 2,700 adults suggest greater social stigma around mental health issues in Black and Hispanic communities may influence a person's likelihood to seek care.

Fifty-four percent of Black and 47% of Hispanic respondents in the Blue Cross survey reported that individuals with mental health conditions in their communities "are looked down upon."

That was the perception of only 38% of white respondents.

"Such perceived stigma, combined with the structur-

al racism that may prevent historically marginalized communities from receiving equitable treatment, may compound the difficulty of asking for help," Blue Cross researchers discovered.

The SHLI study revealed that in the United States, the decline of the overall population's general health and life expectancy "is evi-

denced by increased morbidity and mortality rates."

"In addition to this decline in the nation's systemic health is the alarming deterioration of mental and behavioral health across the country, which has been exacerbated by the deleterious impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and

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ADL list reveals hundreds of law enforcement, politicians, and military are Oath Keepers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Hundreds of law enforcement officers, a host of elected officials, and more than 100 military personnel are members of the Oath Keepers, the far-right extremist group accused of playing a significant role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The Anti-Defamation League Center on Extremism researched more than 38,000 names on Oath Keepers membership lists, releasing its findings on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

The list included 370 individuals believed to still work in law enforcement, including sheriffs and police chiefs.

It includes more than 100 active military members and at least 80 individuals who either ran for or served in public office last month.

ADL officials said they pulled together membership information from a database published by the transparency collective Distributed Denial of Secrets.

"The Oath Keepers are a virulently anti-government, violent extremist group,



Photo via NNPA

whose members have been arrested in connection with a wide range of criminal activities, including seditious conspiracy and other charges related to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, and including various firearms violations, conspiracy to impede federal workers, possession of explosives and threatening public officials," ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a news release.

"To know that members

of this group have permeated key aspects of civil society should serve as a wake-up call to people of all political persuasions that extremists hell-bent on destroying our democratic norms are making in-roads across the country."

The Associated Press cautioned that appearing in the Oath Keepers' database doesn't mean an individual was active in the group or shared its ideology.

The news service con-

tacted some on the list who described themselves as having a brief membership years ago but no longer affiliated with the Oath Keepers.

Some told the AP that they were never dues-paying members.

"Their views are far too extreme for me," said Shawn Mobley, sheriff of Otero County, Colorado.

Mobley told the AP that he distanced himself from the Oath Keepers years ago over concerns about its involvement in the standoff against the federal government at the Bundy Ranch in Bunkerville, Nevada, among other things.

"The Oath Keepers, founded in 2009 by Stewart Rhodes, is a loosely organized conspiracy theory-fueled group that recruits current and former military, police and first responders," The AP reported.

"It asks its members to vow to defend the Constitution 'against all enemies, foreign and domestic,' promotes the belief that the federal government is out to strip citizens of their civil liberties and paints its followers as defenders against tyranny."

More than two dozen

people associated with the Oath Keepers – including Rhodes – have been charged in connection with the Jan. 6 attack.

Among the key findings in the ADL report:

- As of Aug. 8, the Center on Extremism has identified 373 individuals we believe are currently serving in law enforcement agencies across the country. This number is far higher than any previously identified number of extremists within law enforcement; for comparison, an ADL report released in 2021 identified 76 cases – 73 of which were unique – in which extremists were found serving in law enforcement.

- ADL identified individuals it believes are currently holding senior leadership positions within their respective agencies, including at least ten chiefs of police and eleven sheriffs.

- In addition to those actively serving in law enforcement, ADL identified more than 1,000 individuals who it believes previously served in law enforcement.

- ADL's Center on Extremism analysis identified 81 individuals across the country currently hold-

ing or running for public office in 2022. These individuals run the gamut from local office – mayors, town councilmembers, and school board members – to state representatives and senators.

- Before this year's primary season, ADL confirmed 42 Oath Keepers-aligned individuals who were up for election for public office in 2022, consisting of 22 incumbents and 20 candidates.

- As of August 8, 21 of these candidates have advanced to the general election either by winning their primary or having their primary cancelled. 13 of the candidates have lost their primary race. Even more concerning, four individuals have already won their general election.

- ADL identified 117 individuals it believes currently serve in the U.S. military, 11 people who serve in the reserves, and 31 individuals who hold civilian positions or are military contractors.

- In addition to those currently serving in the military, ADL estimates that one in ten individuals in the

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CLIMATE, from Page 1

"Things like solar panels on your roof, a storage unit in your garage, switching to electric heat, or an electric stove. It's often hard for people to afford that upfront cost, but the legislation provides rebates and tax credits of up to \$14,000 for low-to-moderate income families."

Zaidi called the legislation "a big deal."

"It makes it a lot more affordable for families. The equivalent price of charging electric vehicles is \$1.20 per gallon, a huge shift that will save money," Zaidi asserted.

"Also, by creating jobs

that folks can work in this industry, we've put in the bill a lot of incentives and rebates that will help Americans expand the use of technology and the requirements for an apprenticeship. People will be able to raise a family with this income."

Eliminating pollution counts among the most significant victories in the bill, Zaidi continued.

"Black and Brown communities tend to be where pollution is heaviest, and they are usually left out and left behind," he said.

"There's a targeted focus with a \$60 billion invest-

ment in environmental justice which recognizes this issue and takes it head on."

The bill includes a minimum 15% tax on most corporations that make more than \$1 billion a year in profits and \$369 billion for climate action – the largest investment in the issue in American history.

Overall, the bill will allow the U.S. to cut the nation's carbon emissions by 40 percent in less than a decade.

"We don't want to miss this opportunity," Davis warned. "This is game-changing – transformational. We're starting at ground zero, and we must grab it."

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2310	\$30,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	10/19/22	4/17/23
2352	\$200,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.05	\$5	10/19/22	4/17/23
2382	Lucky Overall Odds are 1 in 4.07	\$5	10/19/22	4/17/23
2354	\$1,000,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44	\$20	10/19/22	4/17/23
2293	Cash Celebration! Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$30	10/19/22	4/17/23

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2022 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Navy launches Ambassador program to strengthen ties with HBCUs

U.S. Navy Recruiting Outreach and Diversity has announced the establishment of the “Divine Nine” Ambassador program to build stronger relationships with students, faculty, administration and alumni at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). “Divine Nine” refers to the nine sororities and fraternities that were established by African American students more than a century ago, mainly at HBCUs. These organizations are known collectively as the National Pan-Hellenic Council or the “Divine Nine.”

As part of the new pro-



Michael Afonso / Unsplash

gram, the Navy has appointed 19 Active-duty Officers and Reservists – most of whom are HBCU graduates with “Divine

Nine” affiliations – to serve as ambassadors, who will attend events at HBCUs to establish deeper connections with current “Divine

Nine” members and share information about the exceptional Navy career opportunities available to HBCU graduates. (Please see list of Ambassadors below.)

Inaugural U.S. Navy “Divine Nine” Ambassador Events

This fall, the program will leverage HBCU football games to create customized, onsite activations to authentically engage with campus communities. On September 9-10 at Hampton University in Virginia, “Divine Nine” Ambassadors will be on campus to participate in the

festivities prior to the football game against Tuskegee University. Ambassadors will be stationed at a Navy 360 Photo Booth, where visitors also can participate in a Navy Fitness Challenge.

The following weekend, “Divine Nine” Ambassadors will be in Arlington, TX offering the same engagement opportunities at the football game between Texas Southern University and Southern University at Choctaw Stadium.

“The Navy has always attracted the best-and-brightest HBCU graduates and ‘Divine Nine’ members to

its ranks,” says Commander Dominique “DJ” Jackson, a graduate of Southern University and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. who currently serves as Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer for Naval Surface Forces Atlantic. “These officers make incredible contributions to our service and rewrite our history every day. It is important that the current generation of HBCU students and ‘Divine Nine’ members know about this legacy and understand the opportunities that are available to them in today’s Navy.”

13 states set to tax student loan forgiveness

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Following President Joe Biden’s announcement canceling student loan debt of up to \$20,000 for specific borrowers, the U.S. Department of Education said applications for relief under the plan should be submitted by Nov. 15.

Department officials said they’ve made the application process simple, and if borrowers fail to apply by Nov. 15, they’d still have until the end of 2023 to file for forgiveness.

However, by waiting until after Nov. 15, borrow-



Borrowers are advised to apply before Nov. 15 to receive relief before the payment pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022. (iStock photo / NNPA)

ers risk having to resume payments after the federal pause in repayment ends on Dec. 31.

Biden said it’s vital for the more than 43 million eligible borrowers to take advantage of the loan forgive-

ness plan.

“All this means people can start to finally crawl out from under that mountain of debt to get on top of their rent and utilities, to finally think about buying a home or starting a family or starting a business,” Biden stated.

And while earlier reports revealed that about 13 states could still tax borrowers on the amount of debt forgiven, Mississippi and Virginia are the latest to come off that original list as officials said they would refrain from levying taxes on individuals who receive

loan forgiveness.

How do you know if you’re eligible for debt cancellation? Here are the criteria set forth by the Department of Education:

- Your annual income must have fallen below \$125,000 (for individuals) or \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households)
- If you received a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation.
- If you did not receive a Pell Grant in college and

meet the income threshold, you would be eligible for up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation.

What does the “up to” in “up to \$20,000” or “up to \$10,000” mean?

• Your relief is capped at the amount of your outstanding debt.

• For example: If you are eligible for \$20,000 in debt relief but have a balance of \$15,000 remaining, you will only receive \$15,000 in relief.

What do I need to do to receive loan forgiveness?

See LOAN, Page 7

HEALTH, from Page 4

ongoing syndemic,” the researchers wrote.

They wrote that those mental and behavioral health outcomes are significantly more adverse and unparalleled when visualized through the lens of indigenous populations and racial and ethnic minoritized, marginalized, and medically underserved populations.

Previous studies have attempted to highlight how health disparities affect economic and lifespan outcomes for indigenous populations and racial and

ethnic minoritized groups. Still, none have specifically analyzed the financial burden of mental and behavioral health inequities, researchers at SHLI wrote.

They said the report is designed to inform all stakeholders about the ramifications of a chronically underfunded and siloed mental health care system, with a particular focus on underserved and under-represented communities.

“We are at a tipping point within the United States of a broader acknowledgment that this statement is not

only true but our decades-long lack of focus and resources on mental health has had a significant and negative impact on overall health outcomes in the U.S,” SHLI researchers asserted.

“We are also at a long overdue awakening of how decades of systemic health inequities have yielded significantly worse outcomes for indigenous, racial and ethnic minoritized, marginalized, and medically under-resourced populations, which has led to generations of poor outcomes and reduced value of every life.”

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Irving to host world class athletic triathlon competition

Irving will welcome professional triathletes and fans from across the globe for the inaugural PTO U.S. Open on Sept. 17 and 18 at Levy Event Plaza, 501 E. Las Colinas Blvd. The competition, held by the Professional Triathletes Organisation, will include a swim in Lake Carolyn, a flat bike race and a flat run through Las Colinas. All events will begin and end at Levy Event Plaza.

The bike race will use streets across the Las Colinas area; the run will use roads in the Urban Center.

The Professional Triathletes Organisation has announced a stacked field for the \$1 million PTO US Open men's race in Irving, 18 September, led by PTO World #3 Magnus Ditlev

(DEN), #4 Lionel Sanders (CAN), #5 Alistair Brownlee (GBR), #6 Daniel Bakkegard (DEN) and #7 Florian Angert (GER).

In total, the field for the final PTO Tour men's race of the season features 22 of the top 30 in the PTO World Rankings and covers 12 different countries, including seven from the USA led by PTO World #11 Sam Long.

"I enjoyed finally letting my racing do the talking at the Collins Cup with Lionel Sanders, but I'll be looking to go one better on home soil at the PTO US Open later this month," said the twenty-six-year-old from Boulder, Colorado.

"I always enjoy racing in the US and have been fortunate enough to notch up a couple of wins at Chatta-

nooga, so I'm hoping I can continue that trend in Dallas."

The race will take place on a specially designed course in Las Colinas, that will create a stadium-feel event where fans will see the athletes as many as 12 times during the 100km race.

Commenting on the field announcement, PTO CEO Sam Renouf said:

"This race is bursting with talent, with all the professionals looking to hunt down important PTO Ranking points before the end of season and get themselves as high up the rankings as they can. Picking a winner feels almost impossible, so all the indications are that it will be a highly competitive race."



Formerly incarcerated and supporters urge new director to overhaul federal prisons

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

When Colette Peters started her new job in August as the Federal Bureau of Prisons director, she may have believed her most challenging task included those locked up in government-run prisons.

However, many formerly incarcerated individuals are in Peters' ear, urging her to overhaul federal prisons.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, a group of previously imprisoned individuals joined more than 50 advocacy organizations in penning a letter urging Peters to rectify inhumane conditions within federal prisons, bring the Bureau into compliance with federal law, and meet with formerly and currently incarcerated people.



"We have all witnessed the Bureau's failure to provide adequate medical care, safe conditions, and rehabilitative programs," the group wrote in the letter to Peters.

"We ask you to bring the Bureau into compliance with federal law and to lead the Bureau toward a more humane future grounded in transparency and accountability. Over 157,000

people – thousands of sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, and grandparents – are confined within federal prisons and relying on you for justice."

Counting among the large group of individuals and organizations signing the letter were the American Civil Liberties Union, All Things Art, Inc., the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP),

CAN-DO, The Sentencing Project, the Drug Policy Alliance, and the DC Reentry Task Force.

Peters began her new job in August after ten years running the Oregon Department of Corrections. Her detractors assert that Oregon's prison system remains rife with problems.

In April, a judge granted class-action status to prisoners who fell ill because

of Covid.

They described Peters' response to the pandemic as a failure, while several sexual assault scandals and allegations of retaliation also marked her tenure.

"I've experienced the dangerous and inhumane conditions in federal prisons. Understaffing is no excuse for cruelty, especially when Director Peters has the power to address overcrowding and protect the most vulnerable with compassionate release," said William Underwood, signatory of today's letter, Senior Fellow at The Sentencing Project, and a recipient of compassionate release in 2021.

"There are many more people like me in federal prisons – and many who are older and sicker – who deserve to return to their loved ones."

The Sentencing Project noted that the letter follows recent congressional testimony on federal prisons' abusive and rapidly deteriorating conditions.

"Persistent staff shortages pre-dating the pandemic have severely compromised the functioning and safety of federal prisons, resulting in a lack of clean water, kitchens infested with rats and cockroaches, severely rationed and delayed access to medical and dental care, and near-endless waitlists to access rehabilitative programming," Sentencing Project officials wrote.

"Meanwhile, the Bureau continues to deny compassionate release in the vast majority of cases, has persistently failed to comply with the First Step Act, and is rife with corruption and

See PRISONS Page 8

LOAN, from Page 6

• Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible to receive relief automatically because relevant income data is already available

to the U.S. Department of Education.

• If the U.S. Department of Education doesn't have your income data, the Ad-

ministration will launch a simple application available by early October.

• Please sign up on the Department of Education subscription page if you want notification of when the ap-

plication is open.

Once borrowers complete the application, they can expect relief within 4-6 weeks.

Everyone is encouraged to apply, but there are 8 mil-

lion individuals for whom the Education Department has data and who will get the relief automatically.

Borrowers are advised to apply before Nov. 15 to receive relief before the pay-

ment pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

The Department of Education will continue to process applications as they are received, even after the pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

FEMA kicks off Preparedness Month with campaign targeting African American communities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has again teamed with the Ad Council for a public service announcement to kick off National Preparedness Month.

With its new "Ready Campaign," FEMA specifically targets African American communities with messages that encourages advanced preparedness for storms and all natural disasters.

"Preparing for disaster is not just about protecting people and property, it's about safeguarding the lives we've built and the



Photo via NNPA

legacy we will leave to our children and the generations to come," FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik Hooks told the NNPA's Let

It Be Known live morning news show.

"With this campaign, FEMA reaffirms our commitment to equity and says

loud and clear that every community deserves to be protected from hazards."

Hooks and others kicked off the campaign at Howard University, speaking with students in an ongoing series highlighting the urgency of preparedness.

"Black communities are on the frontlines of climate change and related extreme weather events," Hooks stated.

He referenced a report from the Environmental Protection Agency which revealed that socially vul-

See FEMA, Page 11

Bishop Arts Theatre Center announces mortgage burning party at Dallas Zoo

The building now known as the Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) was donated to TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. in 2005. At that time, the 10,000 sq. ft. building was a dilapidated photography studio with run-down lofts upstairs. Staff leadership and the board of directors raised \$1.2M in private sector donations and a construction loan, brought in an architect, and completely revitalized the building.

Renovations began in 2006 and were complete in 2008, in spite of a downward spiral economy. In July of 2021, BATC was able to pay off the construction loan debt due to the Shuttered Venues Operating Grant via the Save Our Stages legislation championed by Senator John Cornyn and Senator Amy

Klobuchar.

On October 15, 2022, BATC will celebrate this milestone by hosting a Mortgage Burning Party at the Dallas Zoo featuring legendary guitarists Larry Carlton & Paul Brown. A VIP Reception honoring three longtime benefactors, Lauren Embrey of the Embrey Family Foundation, Councilman Chad West, and former board chair C. W. Whitaker, will kick off the event at 5:30 p.m. at the Prime Meridian.

Executive Artistic Director and Founder, Teresa Coleman Wash comments, "We're excited to share this unprecedented achievement with community partners like the Dallas Zoo. It's gratifying to know our neighbors are cheering us on." Board Chair Emma Rodgers adds, "The fire

that cancels our mortgage gives us hope, energy, and power for moving forward. We are grateful for the George and Fay Young Foundation, the Save Our Stages legislation, and all of our donors for their trust in our mission."

Ticketing Information

The event will be held at the Dallas Zoo, located at 650 S R. L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, TX 75203. Tickets can be purchased online anytime at www.bishopartstheatre.org or by calling the box office at (214) 948-0716, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Individual tickets range from \$55 to \$125. This event is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors Visit Dallas, Atmos Energy, Texas Mezzanine Project, Image 360 Arlington, the George

and Fay Young Foundation, and the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture.

OBAMA, from Page 2

have a chance to witness so many talented, selfless, idealistic, good people working tirelessly every day to make the world better."

The former president continued:

"And for eight years and even longer for some of you, I drew on your energy and your dedication and your goodness. You

inspired me, and I never wanted to disappoint you.

"And I tried to reflect the same heart and character that you displayed every day. Even during the toughest times, it was all of you that kept me going. So, it's good to be back to have a chance to see all of you and to once again say thank you."



PRISONS, from Page 7

misconduct."

The letter requests that Peters meet with groups of stakeholders, including formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and advocacy groups.

It also requests that Peters visit at least six prisons at every security level with-

in her first six months in office and meet individually with incarcerated people.

The groups also request that she address overpopulation and dangerous conditions by increasing grants of compassionate release, especially for elderly and medically vulnerable indi-

viduals.

They're seeking assurance that Peters will comply with the First Step Act by providing adequate programming, ending the practice of "augmentation," correcting unsanitary and inhumane conditions, and dramatically increasing access to medical, dental, and mental health care.

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NDG Film Review: 'José Feliciano Behind This Guitar'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) He came before them...

Before Jimi Hendrix and Whitney Houston took creative license with "The Star-Spangled Banner" and before Marc Anthony and Bad Bunny sang salsa and reggaeton, José Monserrate Feliciano Garcia blazed a path. And now this nostalgic scrapbook of his life catalogues his trials and triumphs.

Born blind in 1945, he lived in poverty in Puerto Rico (no bathroom just a latrine), moved to the Bronx at age five, and shared an apartment with 12 siblings. Feliciano wanted a better life. Gifted with a guitar at age nine, as a young adult he used that instrument, his voice and songwriting skills to launch a career. His fusion of Latin, soul, jazz blues and rock blossomed over



Emilio Estefan, Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, Gloria Estefan, Celia Cruz and Jose Feliciano in "Jose Feliciano Behind This Guitar." (Courtesy photo)

55 years and earned him 45 Gold and Platinum records and nine Grammys.

Reinterpreting popular songs was a key part of Feliciano's unique talent, which garnered mixed responses. Rock purists cried heresy when he jazzed up and slowed down The Doors' #1 Billboard song "Light My Fire." However,

his vocals on that song won him a Grammy in 1968 for Contemporary-Pop Vocal Performance, Male. But nothing prepared him for the rage he encountered when he did the national anthem, his way.

At the beginning of Game 5 of the 1968 World Series, the Latino crooner sang the "The Star-Spangle

Banner" before the Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals played. Blending folk and jazz, he slowed the tempo down, sang his heart out and angered traditionalists. The outrage was swift and cruel. One disenchanted fan wrote: "What screwball gave permission to have the national anthem desecrated by singing it in the jazzy, hippy manner that it was sung?"

Feliciano was devastated by the response, but conversely it also made him famous. He poured his broken heart into his music and hit after hit came along

with international acclaim. He built bridges between Latino culture and the rest of the world with Spanish classics like "Feliz Navidad," which introduced him and his Puerto Rican heritage to a wider audience.

With reverence and love, directors Helen Murphy and Frank Licari piece together Feliciano's concerts, recordings, family life, marriages, challenges and breakthroughs. Photos, footage and newspaper clippings provide a record.

See GUITAR, Page 12

Have Medicare questions? I have answers.

I'm Lamonica Thomas, a licensed sales agent in Dallas-Fort Worth. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs.

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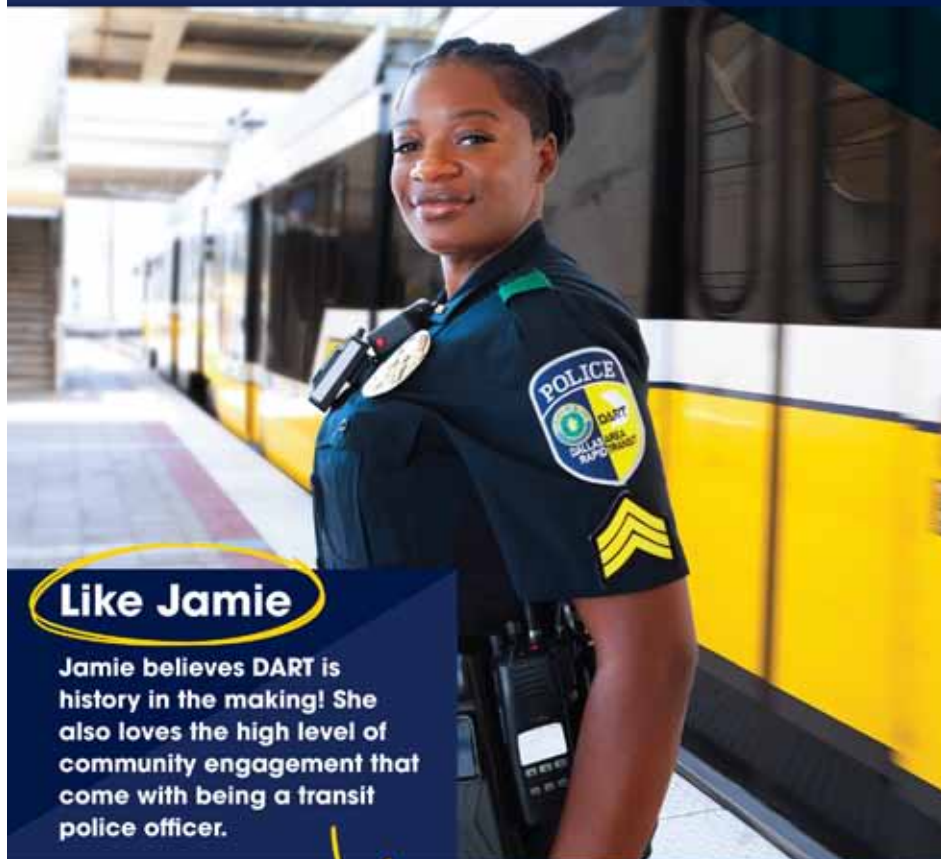
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Dallas Symphony Orchestra to release Brahms Symphonies album Sept. 16

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Fabio Luisi (Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn Music Directorship) recently announced their first album recording of Luisi's tenure. Brahms Symphonies No. 1 & 2 will be released on the DSO's in-house label, DSO Live, on Friday, September 16, 2022. The album is the initial recording of a complete Brahms Symphony cycle that Luisi and the DSO will record. The recording will be available as a 2CD set as well as a digital download at retailers including Apple Music, Spotify and Idagio.

Both performances were recorded live at Dallas's Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Brahms's



Symphony No. 1 was recorded September 16-19, 2021. The performances marked the start of Luisi's second season as Music Director following a pared-down inaugural season during the pandemic. Texas Classical Review

remarked, "The program offered a strong return to form and the kind of familiar brilliance not heard in the hall since March of last year." The Second Symphony of Brahms was recorded in a special series of concerts in February 2022

as the orchestra was able to welcome larger audiences to the space. Both record-

ings were engineered by Soundmirror and Dirk Sobotka.

Luisi was keen to begin

See DSO, Page 16

The Dallas Opera Announces 2022/2023 community initiatives

The Dallas Opera invites the people of North Texas to join them during the 2022/2023 Season for a series of community-based initiatives designed to welcome new audiences to the art form, both in-person and digitally.

"Whether it is live and in person at the Winspear, at home on a screen, or out in the neighborhood, we hope to make opera more accessible and approachable to the community," said Ian Derrer, Dallas Opera's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. "Crescendo is an exciting new initiative to attract the next generation of operagoers—and we hope livestreaming our annual People's Choice Concert will achieve the same."

Registration begins today for the newly established Crescendo, an under 45 group aimed to bring together young people (ages 21-45) from all backgrounds to network, socialize, and learn more about opera in an approachable, fun way.

For \$60, each member will receive:

- Two Complimentary Mainstage Tickets

- Discount Ticket Offers
- Four Pre-Show Mixers
- One Backstage Tour for Two

- One Special Event Invitation Surrounding the Hart Institute for Women Conductors

To learn more about Crescendo and to register, visit dallasopera.org/crescendo or contact crescendo@dallasopera.org.

TDO's new and popular People's Choice Concert precludes the 65th Anniversary Season at the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at 3:00pm. Featuring the cast of the opening production of Rigoletto, Music Director Emmanuel Villaume conducts the Dallas Opera Orchestra in a selection of opera hits—from Rigoletto to Carmen to La fille du régiment. Audience members will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite selection and hear it again as the final encore.

New this year! Be part of the audience, no matter your location. Spend an afternoon in Dallas and livestream the concert straight to your device.

Tickets are free and reg-

istration for the in-person concert and livestream will begin on Thursday, September 15, at 9:00am.

OperaTruck returns for another Season, bringing opera into the communities of North Texas on an 18-wheel flatbed, outdoor mobile stage. These free "pop-up" performances from The Dallas Opera's education team feature a cast of rising stars in a fun, family friendly 30-minute production of The Billy Goats Gruff.

Catch OperaTruck in Action*:

- Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 2:00pm: White Rock Center of Hope
- Saturday, November 12, 2022, at 2:00pm: South Dallas Cultural Center
- Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 2:00pm: Voice of Hope Ministries
- Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 2:00pm: Klyde Warren Park°
- Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 2:00pm: Fair Park

*Additional dates to be announced

° Performance at the Muse Family Performance Pavilion without truck

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Alcatraz ferry workers want to unionize ... again

By Zack Haber
Post News Group

Workers who operate and provide services to customers riding the ferry that runs from San Francisco's Pier 33 to Alcatraz Island are attempting to form a union.

"I think if we formed a union this would be a happy place," said Erik An-

finson, who works as a captain with Alcatraz Cruises, which operates the ferry. "We used to have that, but now it's gone."

Anfinson feels that working conditions and morale have deteriorated since the ferry reopened post-COVID. He's one of 68 workers who signed a letter in mid-July asking Hornblower

Group, the company that runs Alcatraz Cruises, to recognize their union. About 85 employees, according to Anfinson, work at the ferry. These employees include other captains, as well as deckhands, maintenance, ticket booth, and food and beverage workers.

Hornblower Group has chosen not to honor the

workers' request for them to voluntarily recognize their union.

"We enjoy and value being able to directly communicate with our employees, and believe that the company, our employees and our guests are better served when such communications occur directly between the company and its employ-

ees rather than through any third party, including a labor organization," reads a statement that Hornblower Group Vice President of Communications Melissa Gunderson emailed to this reporter.

Ultimately, the workers are attempting to unionize by joining the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, which is also known as the IBU, and is a part of the In-

See FERRY, Page 12

FEMA, from Page 8

nerable populations, including Black and African American communities, may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change.

Specifically, with global warming, Black and African American individuals have a 10% higher risk of living in areas with the highest projected inland flooding damages compared to reference populations, the report concluded.

"Black and African American communities

often suffer disproportionate impacts from disasters. This is something that we must work to change and that starts with how we prepare," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell.

"Our 2022 Ready campaign speaks directly to the communities who need our help the most and who deserve equitable access to preparedness resources that protect people and property," Criswell remarked.

"By continuing to advance accessibility and

cultural competency in our preparedness messaging, we can make sure that everyone is ready when disaster strikes."

According to a news release, the Ready Campaign PSAs, titled "A Lasting Legacy," will run nationwide in both Spanish and English, and are meant to help mitigate these discrepancies by encouraging Black communities to protect the lives they have built and the legacies they will leave behind through preparation and disaster readiness.

"We all want to protect our families, whether that's our grandparents or our grandchildren," said Ad Council Chief Campaign Development Officer Michelle Hillman.

"This latest creative work is grounded in the importance of family and reminds us that preparation can make sure that our loved ones endure whatever disasters life sends our way."

For more information and tips on preparing an emergency plan, visit ready.gov/plan or listo.gov/plan.

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FERRY, from Page 11

ternational Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). A recent post on an Instagram account representing the proposed Alcatraz ferry union says, "We are organizing because we deserve fair scheduling, predictable raises, job security, adequate training, respect and a seat at the table."

For the union drive to be successful, workers will have to go through a formal vote organized by the National Labor Review Board. They currently are working through that process and hope to unionize in coming weeks.

If the workers do secure a union, it won't be the first time Alcatraz ferry workers have been unionized. The

companies that had operated the ferry from its opening in 1973 until 2006, had always hired union workers. But when Hornblower Group took over the ferry in 2006, they set up Alcatraz Cruises, an operation that opposes representation for ferry workers, and the Alcatraz ferry workers have been nonunion since then.

Anfinson hopes that a union contract will help him secure some stability with his work schedule. He says his work hours change from week to week in an unpredictable manner.

"I want to know when I can make doctor and dentist appointments," he said. "Not having a set schedule

makes it tough, you can't plan anything."

In her email, Gunderson, of Hornblower, attributed the unpredictability to problems related to COVID, but said that the situation is now becoming better.

"Like most employers across a host of industries, the pandemic caused staffing challenges at Alcatraz City Cruises, and this issue was compounded by unpredictable government restrictions and related tourist demand that rapidly changed with COVID variants," said Gunderson's email.

Gunderson did not respond when asked to provide current and pre-COVID staff numbers. According to Anfinson,

Alcatraz Cruises has less than half the employees it had before COVID, which forces him and other workers to take on more tasks and work longer hours than they used to.

"They don't want to hire more employees, and I don't know why," said Anfinson. "I think they're just trying to cut back on everything."

An Alcatraz ferry worker, who asked not to be named due to fears of retaliation, told this reporter they feel a union could help workers secure safer working conditions and a smoother, safer operation for customers. Workers expressed frustration at unnecessary ferry delays that occur multiple times a week and described sewage lines backing up

and overflowing at least three times this year.

"I'm concerned for the safety and well-being of my co-workers and the guests," said the worker. "I really feel the union would have our back and give us an added protection."

A worker criticized the company for hiring two business consultants they say have been talking with staff to dissuade them from unionizing. The consultants work for The Redd Group, a company that lists "union prevention" as a service it offers on its website. The worker wishes the money Hornblower spends on consultants could go elsewhere.

"That money would be better spent doing permanent repair work on our boats," the worker said.

In her emailed statement, Gunderson compared their two consultants to Northern California ILWU Organizer Evan McLaughlin, since all three people are paid to talk with workers about union-related issues.

"It would be unfair to let the union tell our employees only one side of the story," Gunderson wrote. "We have engaged these consultants to ensure that our employees are informed, hearing both the pros and cons of unionizing from credible sources with knowledge of union governance and dues."

"We've been talking about unionizing for years," said Anfinson. "But they let people go during the off-season and we have to start all over; it's like a revolving door."

GUITAR, from Page 9

Interviews with his brothers, wife and children offer insights into his personal journey. World-famous musicians like Carlos Santana, Gloria Estefan and Emilio Estefan explain why his musical achievements mattered—and they even executive produced this enlightening doc.

From the footage, view-

ers learn that Feliciano's musical philosophy is quite simple: "Latin music with American stylings." Also, he saw his impoverished life in P.R. differently than others might imagine: "The memories I have are happy in Puerto Rico because they were always filled with music."

Cinematographers Khoa

Le and Egor Morozov elegantly capture the beauty of the Caribbean island, admiration from earnest interviewees and the singer's essence. With the care of an artist and hands of a surgeon, editor Paul Jaigua melts scenes together (radio shows, TV appearances, live concerts) and cuts a 75-year-old story down to 92 succinct minutes.

Surprisingly, that dev-

astating experience Feliciano endured during the national anthem scandal gave him a five-decade-long career. It also gave the Detroit Tigers some luck. View this meditative and well-deserved archive of

José Monserrate Feliciano Garcia's humble but storied life and you'll find out exactly how his positive spirit greatly influenced others.

Now that this pioneer's challenges and accom-

plishments have been duly recorded, those who follow in his steps can fully appreciate how he paved their way.

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

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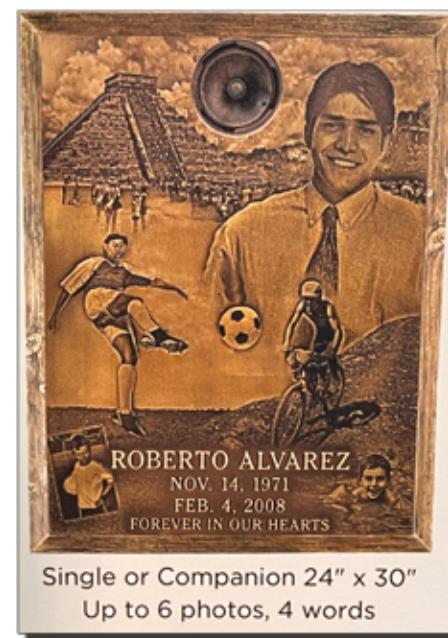
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Soaring rent prices in major markets make for tough choices

Monica Scantlebury lived in D.C. for a decade before picking up stakes and moving to the Big Apple, where she has resided for about 11 years.

So, as Scantlebury noted, she's no stranger to high rents.

A high school teacher for 15 years, Scantlebury has decided to leave the teaching profession and New York at the end of the month.

"It's not sustainable," she said of ever-escalating rents.

Outside of Manhattan, in New York City's four other boroughs, rents are lower. However, the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan stands

at about \$4,000 per month. Scantlebury said landlords require earnings of 40-times the rent for application approvals.

"The average income needed is \$160,000," Scantlebury asserted. "If a teacher is a single person, that's not even feasible, even at charter schools which generally pay 10 percent more."

"I have 15 years of experience, two master's degrees, and I top out at \$106,000 at a charter school. However, even with my husband's salary, we are not at \$160,000 nor close to it given he is in the dance performance industry."

The average cost of a one-bedroom in August

stands at \$1,769 nationally, a 39% increase over 2021, Rent.com reported.

Two-bedroom rentals averaged \$2,105 nationally this month, a 38% increase over 2021.

"If you're interested in a single bed and a single bath, the average of such apartments is mostly around \$2,000 to \$2,100 here in Fairfax, Virginia," said Dustin Fox, owner and realtor of Fox Teams Real Estate Brokers in Virginia.

"For each additional room, the rent increases by \$500 on average," Fox stated. "This information varies because of the difference in neighborhoods and amenities. The figures drop and move up but don't really cross much of the budget."

Fox said rental patterns revealed that current prices are comparatively lower but soared from \$3,000 to \$3,500 in Fairfax last year.

"With the prevailing

fluctuations in interest rates and home prices, it's getting miserable for new home buyers to settle in their own places," Fox continued.

"The only recommendation that can be put forward for these people is that they should hold back their expenses within strict limits and keep saving until the market cools down."

Joshua Haley, the founder of Moving Astute, said there are many ways to

make housing more affordable.

"One is to increase the availability of units at lower rates," Haley stated.

"Another is to provide incentives for developers to build more affordable housing. A third solution is to make it easier for people to access credit to purchase a home. Finally, increasing the supply of affordable housing will help bring down the rent cost in major cities."

ADL, from Page 5

database previously served in the military in some capacity.

The ADL identified 86 individuals it believes are active firefighters – including several fire chiefs – as well as 19 active paramedics and 31 emergency technicians in the database. In addition, the Oath Keepers have used disaster relief to garner positive attention for their group, and these professionals have skills that can bolster these efforts.

According to the report, the Oath Keepers did not just draw supporters from the professions they explicitly targeted.

Members include religious figures, teachers, civil engineers, and government employees.

Some individuals reported holding top secret clearances or having jobs that gave them access to critical infrastructure such as nuclear facilities.



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

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

I'd Give Her a Piece of My Mind If I Had Any To Spare

By James L. Snyder

I do not know if grouchy comes with old age or if in old age you are too weak to subdue it. I guess it does not really matter because I am having a little bit of trouble along this line. My grouchy seems to be getting out of control.

I remember the good old days, those carefree days, days when I did not let anything bother me. Oh, how I wish they would return.

Lately, it seems everywhere I go I run into people that irritate me. It does not matter if I am driving in a car or walking down the street or sitting in a restaurant, irritating people seem to be everywhere. At least, they seem to be everywhere that I am. Every time I turn around there is somebody irritating me. I am at the point where I am tempted to stop "turning around."

Driving across town the other day I ran into, almost

literally, some driver not watching where she was going. Barely missing her, I noticed she was talking on her cell phone. I am quite sure she did not even see me. I wanted to stop everything, get out of my car and give her a good piece of my mind.

But I didn't.

It took me a few minutes to settle down and quiet my nerves and so I decided to go to a little café for a cup of coffee. Nothing seems to soothe my nerves quicker than a nice hot cup of Joe. Let them say what they will, coffee is my best friend.

Fortunately, I was not in a hurry, but it still was a situation that irritated me and stirred up the grouchy within.

I was standing in line waiting to order my coffee when the lady in front of me was trying to figure out what she wanted. I am not sure if this person had ever

been in a café before, but she acted as if she did not know what she was doing or what she wanted.

Then she did something that accented the positive in my grouchy.

"Could I have a sample taste of that coffee?" she said to the person behind the counter.

At first, I did not know what she was saying. But he agreed and went back and got a little cup and gave her a sample.

"I'm not sure," she said quite hesitatingly, "can I try another one?" And pointed to one of the coffees she was interested in.

I am absolutely positive that people should have the ability to make their own choices. I have no problem with that. My choice at that moment was to give that woman a good piece of my mind.

But I didn't.

Finally, after tasting about 10 different coffees,

she picked one and finally I was able to order my coffee and find a seat and enjoy it.

I say, "Enjoy it," but it was rather difficult because my irritableness just would not go away. After all, there should be some respect for the person behind you when you are standing in line. Especially, if that person standing in line is me.

As I was sipping my coffee alone in the corner, some thoughts began to rattle in my head. The main thought emerging was that grouchy may be an inherited condition.

I began thinking of my father and his father and unfortunately, I did not know my great-grandfather, but the two that I did know had a wide streak of grouchy in them. If my memory serves me correct, the older they got, the more grouchy became predominant.

So, if grouchy is inherited I am really not to blame. Just thinking about

that made me chuckle a little bit. In fact, I began to chuckle so much that my grouchy ran away in fear of his life. And so he should.

As I sat in that café enjoying my 2nd cup of coffee, I began evaluating my life. I think I have found out why grouchy is becoming more dominant in my life.

Everybody is born with a certain amount of "mind." We can do with that "mind" whatever we want to do with it. And so, if I begin giving people a "piece of my mind," I am going to diminish my supply of "mind."

When the "mind" gets low it introduces the level of grouchy. The last phase is when a person comes to the point where he "loses his mind." Now, once you lose your mind, you can never get it back.

I am at the grouchy stage and so I need to take a little bit of inventory. I have only so much "mind" left and I

better take care of because that is all I got. Whenever I am tempted to give somebody a piece of my mind, I am going to stop and think it over a little bit.

Does that person really does serve a piece of my "mind?" If I give that person a piece of my mind, will I miss it?

I like what Peter says, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13).

I am going to protect my mind and use it wisely because it is all I got.

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

GOD, from Page 3

poverished communities in urban and rural areas.

While the status quo wants to keep young people down and disillusioned, God via hip-hop has reawakened the masses of millions of youth to speak out, stand up, and to become empowered with truth, resilience, vitality and a transformed vision to strive to make the world a better place for all people.

In verse 1 Rick Ross hints at the importance of stopping any form of disunity and self-destruction, and to begin the God-inspired journey to acquire enough money to buy and own a bank.

In verse 2 Lil Wayne testifies about how God made him to be creative: "God did His thing when he made me

With the odds stacked against me, I could crack Da Vinci

I know only God can judge us."

Verse 3 was the longest verse. It was another hip-hop classic with Hov, i.e.: Jay-Z, who upfront eloquently acknowledges that because God did, Hov did. Jay-Z reminds the world that, "Hov did"

"Please, Lord forgive me for what the stove did

Nobody touched the billi' until Hov did

How many billionaires can come from Hov crib?

I count three, me, Ye, and Rih."

Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Rihanna all shattered previous recording industry achievement records that propelled each of them into the billionaire stratosphere on earth and in the heavens. Yes, God did. Yes, Hov did. God did and God is still doing!

Mass incarceration is not the answer. Voter suppression is not the answer.

Poverty and economic inequities are not the answer. "God Did" is the answer that requires activism, struggle, compassion, creativity, and empowerment.

Jay-Z said it best:

"I pray none of your people die over jailphones again

All this pain from the outside, inspired all the growth within

So new planes getting' broken in

Highest elevation of the self."

No one album alone will give all the answers to all the perplexing questions of society. Yet, I salute "God Did" as a welcomed and timely give back and cultural blessing to all of humanity. Hip-hop is a global antidote to the poison of racial oppression and economic inequalities. Thank you, DJ Khaled, for "God Did."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr (Dr Ben) is President

and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and

Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles weekly on PBS TV sta-

tions throughout the U.S. and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

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The Faithfulness of God



Sister Tarpley
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Editor

Things to Ponder: Excerpts from a message by the late Elder Philip White of Love Chapel COGIC in West Dallas.

"God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?"

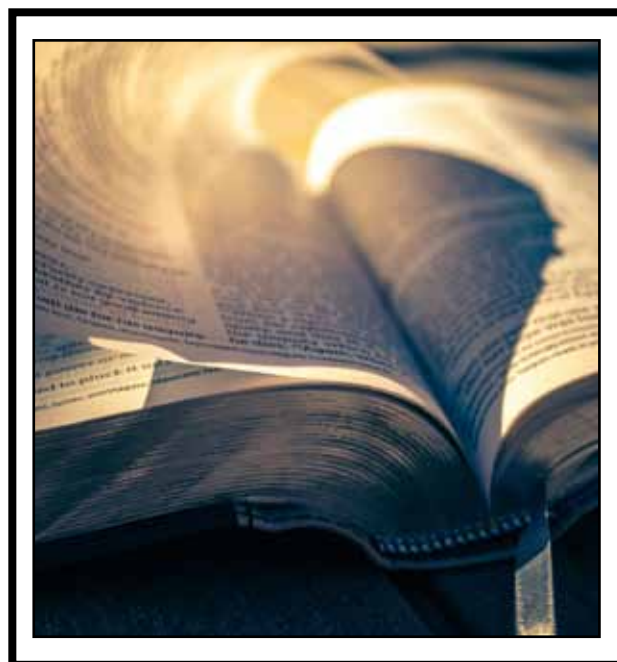
Numbers 23:19

Reference verses: Psalms 30:5; Job 5:19; and John 13:7. The late Pastor White emphasized that everything starts and ends with God's Word, therefore we must: Pray, Believe, and then Receive.

He further stated that God said, 'If I'm not faithful—I cease to be God.' Moreover, he said that as Christians we should be living in the FOG—Favor of God.

It has been said that, "God is never late, seldom early, but always on time," that is why we should thank Him for His schedule, for Him being on time.

And, thank Him for



the lessons that we learn through waiting, through suffering, through the storms, the valleys in our life and for His faithfulness to us.

Words to Ponder: Joy runs deeper than despair.

—Corrie Ten Boom.

What is most characteristically human about us is the tension between the desire to be "free"—self-identifying and self-choosing—and to be "related" to love and be loved.

—Paul Tillich.

We cannot change our past. We can not change the fact that people act in a certain way. We can not change the inevitable. The

only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. —Charles Swindoll.

Wisdom is knowledge applied. Head knowledge is useless on the battlefield. Knowledge stamped on the heart makes one wise. —Beth Moore.

Peace does not dwell in outward things, but in the heart prepared to wait trustfully and quietly on Him (God) who has all things safely in His hands.

—Elisabeth Elliot.

The sea enters the rivers before the rivers can run into the sea. In like manner, God comes to us before we go to Him; and

Heaven enters into our souls before we can enter into Heaven.

—Peter Drelincourt.

Wishing will never be a substitute for prayer. —Ed Cole. Love is not consolation, it is light.

—Simone Weil.

The best things are nearest: breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

No matter what you have, you could always give back a little and gain so much more, —Beverly Mitchell. I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.

—John Keith Falconer.

None of us are saints, none of us are heroes... But I've learned to accept what goes wrong, and to turn it into a gift. —Krista Tippet.

I see my relationship with my Heavenly Father, with God in Heaven—as

someone to look to if I want to look for guidance, to feel comfortable with my thoughts and my actions, someone to be accountable to.

—Blair Underwood.

What About Believing In Dreams—Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented fabulous?'

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

—Marianne Williamson.

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

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NDG Book Review: 'Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution'

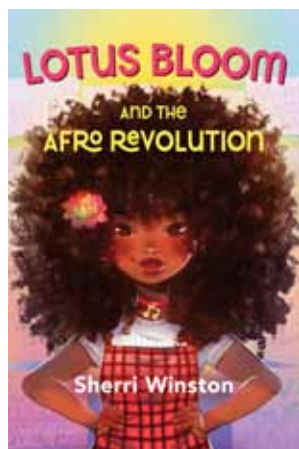
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You know this truth: The curl's the thing.

Short and close to your head, wound around your finger, standing tall in a pineapple, you love how your hair curls around your face, over your shoulders, and down your back. The curl's the thing – it might even be something you're known for – but in "Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution" by Sherri Winston, it's a thing to get someone in trouble.

Everything was fine before the paper airplane.

Well, maybe it was more like fine-ish. On her



first day at a new magnet school near Miami Beach, Lotus Bloom had to walk past her old school with her BFF, Rebel, who'd be staying at MacArthur. Rebel wasn't happy that the two girls would be in

different schools for the first time ever. She hated that MacArthur's building was falling apart. Rebel couldn't be happy that Lotus was over-the-moon happy.

And oh, Lotus was happy! Her big dream was to play violin in a major concert hall with a full orchestra in front of a big audience. She'd been playing violin since she was four years old and music "was life" – and so when she was singled out by a celebrity teacher at her new school in the first week and she was chosen as first chair in the school orchestra, she was so excited!

But the boy she replaced as first chair....? Not so excited.

In fact, ninth-grader Adolpho Cortez was angry that a twelve-year-old seventh-grader could land a position that he'd worked so hard for, an orchestra position that his parents promised him was his. And so Adolpho and his friends started hassling Lotus with paper airplanes and paperwad bombs during orchestra class.

And this wouldn't have been a big deal, except Lotus was rocking a monster Afro that she was proud of, and that took a lot of work – and when she com-

plained about the harassment, the school said she had to cut her hair! How was this fair? How was this right?

How was Lotus going to stand up for herself?

Who remembers a time when young ladies were told to go-along and be demure? Who wants that for their own daughter? Who wants "Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution"?

Probably you, because today's girls are strong, and so is author Sherri Winston's main character. Lotus Bloom is also a modern girl, a good kid, smart and proud, and her inner-world is rich with observa-

tion and the kind of wisdom that comes from being almost thirteen. This lends a nice bit of humor to the story but mostly, it's a sort of been-there, done-that for young teens, within a road map to respectful disagreement. Bonus: the kids in this book aren't fools, and there's no big boy-drama inside this story.

Parents may enjoy reading "Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution," perhaps even along with their eleven-to-fourteen-year-old, who will love a character with guts. For any girl (or boy!) who needs a dose of bravery, it's a book to curl up with.

DSO, from Page 10

his recordings in Dallas with the symphonies of Brahms. He observes:

"I think Brahms is one of the most important composers for a symphony orchestra. Each of the four

symphonies is very different from the other. At the start of my tenure as Music Director, these are ideal pieces to begin our collaboration and partnership. I am able to share my

ideas of interpretation and craft the kind of sound that I would like from the orchestra. We learn so much from each other by performing the symphonies of Brahms." Luisi continues: "To record and release the complete cycle is a state-

ment – it is an artistic statement of who we are as an orchestra now and where we are going as an ensemble. The Dallas Symphony has a rich history and a number of music directors with different styles. With Brahms, we are present-

ing ourselves in a different way than before. This is our Brahms, and this is how we will shape the Romantic repertoire."

"It is exciting to share our first album from this new era of the Dallas Symphony," says Kim Nolte-

my, Ross Perot President & CEO of the DSO. "The DSO has an incredible recording history going back to the 1940s under Antal Doráti. We look forward to continuing this tradition with the first of a complete Brahms cycle."



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