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2022 Vote: The issue of abortion and abortion safety

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

The issue of abortions is the most heated debate topic for the 2022 midterms for American voters. Its gnawing presence has possessed the moral conscience of Americans for nearly 50 years since the decision of *Roe v. Wade*. The subject itself is polarizing and forces voters to take a hard stand on one side of the debate or the other.

But is preventing the loss of unborn lives really the driving force that has piqued Republican interest and has them on a born-again crusade?

The fear of the vanishing white race, some feel, (and the potential loss of voting power that would come with it) is the impetus for a major national push to end all abortions—for whatever reason. It is easy to assume through American neglective and sometimes violent actions that it's not life in general that we care so much about.

In a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in the matter of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), the Court had to consider the constitutionality of the 2018 Mississippi state law that banned most abortion operations after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. The Court's ruling overturned the decision of the seminal *Roe v. Wade* (1973) ruling on abortion



The overturning of Roe v. Wade has created a firestorm in the U.S. and promises to be a key issue in the upcoming elections. (Photo: Colin Lloyd / Unsplash)

that permitted a woman the right to choose.

With the *Dobbs* decision an avalanche of laws strictly prohibiting abortion—and in most cases making abortion a felony for the woman, the person that helped her, and the participating physician.

States that were the most vehement in the rhetoric surrounding abortion and subsequently went all-in with passing the prohibitive laws are solidly Republican, and their data reveals that white women are just as willing to have an abortion as are other races.

These laws that abolished abortions—regardless of health issues, rape, or incest—came regardless of the wishes of a vast majority of

Americans. A Pew Research Center survey revealed that 61% of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal, compared to 37% of American adults who believe it should be illegal, yet states passed anti-abortion bills into law, nonetheless.

The response to these draconian laws that block the path toward safe abortions has always been that a desperate or violated woman has no choice but to resort to some draconian solution.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between the years 2010 and 2014 nearly 56 million abortions occurred world-

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Stand your ground at the polls

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NIH drops \$200M for biomed

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Delta at the 51st CBCF Conference

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Hard Work plus Great Ratings

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McKinney mural is unveiled

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'Till' touches a painful Black memory

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'Pretty Woman' tickets now available

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People In The News ...



Chiquita Brooks-LaSure



Rochelle Garza

NDG Quote of the Week: "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing." — Muhammad Ali

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

A White House photo featuring dozens of African American members of the Biden-Harris administration circulated the internet during the opening days of Black History Month, and one would be hard-pressed to find anyone as proud as Chiquita Brooks-LaSure.

The first Black woman to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Brooks-LaSure offered the brightest smile when mentioning the historic photo that featured Vice President Kamala Harris and a host of Black



staffers who help push the administration's work forward.

"I'm so proud and really moved," the Philadelphia-born Brooks-LaSure asserted.

"When I got nominated, I heard from women across the country, and I didn't realize how meaningful it would be for so many people for me to sit in this chair," she continued.

"I have older women and younger women come up to me and say how proud they are. That really fuels me to want to use this role in a way to change people's lives, and I feel so grateful for that opportunity."

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) resolutely salutes and congratulates Chiquita Brooks-LaSure for her outstanding leadership

at Health and Human Services (HHS) CMS. We look forward to expanding the partnership between CMS and the NNPA. Medicare and Medicaid are vital to the present and future of African Americans and other communities of color," affirmed Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr, NNPA President and CEO.

A former policy official who played a crucial role in guiding the Affordable Care Act – or Obamacare – through passage and implementation, Brooks-LaSure enjoys decades of experience working in government and the private sector.

As deputy director for policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, and earlier at the Department of Health & Human Services as director of coverage policy, Brooks-LaSure led the agency's implementation of Obamacare coverage and insurance policy provisions.

She assisted the House of Representatives leaders in passing several healthcare laws, including the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, as part of the Democratic staff for the House's Ways and Means Commit-

tee.

As administrator for CMS, Brooks-LaSure oversees programs that include Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the HealthCare.gov health insurance marketplace.

"I was born in Philadelphia, raised in New Jersey, and have been living in Virginia for a big chunk of my life," said LaSure, who's married with a young daughter.

"I was always interested in policy from a young age," she explained.

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Rochelle Garza

BROWNSVILLE – Today, Rochelle Garza released the first TV ad in the Texas attorney general race: "Briefcases." The ad shows the dramatic contrast between the two attorney general candidates: Rochelle Garza, a civil rights attorney who has dedicated her career to fighting for Texans, and Ken Paxton, a criminally-indicted incumbent who has been facing serious criminal legal issues for nearly a decade.

"Briefcases" details how some criminals wield a different type of weapon - a briefcase, which they carry



to restrict people's personal freedoms. The ad is in reference to Paxton's attacks on women, whose reproductive rights have been taken away. Paxton has been an aggressive anti-abortion leader, including

pushing for his office to join with local prosecutors to imprison doctors and abortion care providers.

He ran (literally) from being served a subpoena from an abortion fund's lawsuit against him. In addition to a criminal indictment for allegedly defrauding his clients of upwards of \$600,000, Paxton is facing an FBI investigation for bribery, and he is at risk of losing his law license for trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

"Briefcases" will begin running across TV and digital platforms statewide today as part of the cam-

paign's significant seven-figure buy across mediums through Election Day.

Statement from Marcy Miranda, Spokesperson for Rochelle Garza for Texas campaign:

"Texans have an opportunity to hear from a strong candidate ready to put their needs first and be the fighter Texans deserve. Rochelle Garza will tackle the issues that underpin a healthy family – restoring access to reproductive rights, safeguarding families from price-gouging, and protecting the privacy and dignity of every Texan. Our state needs an attor-

ney general who will fight to defend and protect their personal freedoms – not a politician who has spent nearly his entire career as AG fighting to keep himself out of prison."

Rochelle was raised in Brownsville, Texas, the sister city to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. She is the daughter of two public school teachers. Rochelle's mother was raised by a WWII veteran and a hard-working mother who became the manager of a municipal credit union after raising three children.

Ad transcript:

Sometimes criminals

carry guns to rob you on the streets.

Sometimes they carry briefcases to rob you of your personal freedoms.

Texas needs an attorney general who'll protect us from both.

Rochelle Garza has fought to protect children and families and to defend our reproductive rights.

As Attorney General, Rochelle will take on corporate criminals, price gougers and corrupt politicians.

And she'll always protect our rights.

Rochelle Garza – an Attorney General – for the people.

Kalynda C. Smith, Ph.D.

(Black PR Wire) – Kalynda C. Smith, Ph.D., of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's John R. and Kathy R. Hairston College of Health and Human Sciences, has received a four-year \$545,686 grant to study the impact social media has on the health of Black women.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) awarded the grant, "How Health and Weight Management Social Media Messages Targeting African American Women Impact Health Behaviors,"



Black PR Wire

to Smith, an assistant professor in the Hairston College's Department of Psychology.

Smith's study seeks to determine how social media use that emphasizes physical appearance affects the diet and fitness habits of Generation Z Black/Afri-

can American women.

"These women have been exposed to social media messages the majority of their lives, compared with older groups, but there is little research that examines how these messages influence their self-presentation, self-esteem and health habits," said Smith. "This study will address how social media can be used as a preventative measure to address chronic conditions, like diabetes, that disproportionately affect the Black/African American community in the United States.

Smith's work will engage up to four Black/African American psychology undergraduates and two stu-

dents in the M.S. in health psychology program in extensive mixed methods research training, preparing them for a variety of psychology career pathways.

The grant award was made through the Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) mechanism, which supports research capacity building at U.S. higher education institutions that receive limited NIH research support and serve students from groups underrepresented in biomedical research with an emphasis on providing students with research opportunities and enriching the research environment at the applicant institutions.

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Allen R. Gray

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Gun Control Laws: Stand your ground at the polls

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

The laws surrounding the use and ownership of guns need clarity in the interpretation of those laws and a major overhaul in the execution of those laws. The gun laws as they stand are proving to be a lose-lose situation for Blacks, at the scene of the "crime" and in the court system.

Stand Your Ground laws have evolved into a get out of jail free card for whites. Unequal justice found in courtrooms nationwide will only be changed with hard aggressive voting during regional and national elections.

The facts surrounding the landmark Treavon Martin case on February 26, 2012, in Sanford, Florida brought the Stand Your Ground law and the Castle Doctrine to national prominence. After the facts of the Martin case were laid bare, it was revealed that George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain, called 911 to report a "suspicious person." Zimmerman was instructed not to get out his car, but he got out of his vehicle, nonetheless. Zimmerman then followed shot and killed Martin a Black teen. In court, Zimmerman was found innocent, because he had a right to stand his ground and not retreat before using deadly force—even as he was following Martin and adversely confronted Martin before the shooting.

Immediately following the greatly debated Zimmerman verdict, the entire notion of Stand Your Ground defenses became polarizing. Only 30 percent of white respondents to a Pew poll were willing to disagree with the ver-

dict. On the other hand, 86 percent of Blacks strongly disagreed with the jury's decision.

Then President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder called for states to roll back Stand Your Ground laws. Obama said such laws "encourage ... confrontations and tragedies."

Instead, the opposite occurred as soon thereafter politicians in over 30 plus states passed or adjusted similar laws to make them more commensurate with the Florida law that was initiated 2005.

There are other controversial Stand Your Ground lessons Black and brown people have been exposed to over the proceeding years that were just as alarming as the Martin case.

November 2007, Pasadena, Texas. Joe Horn, 61-year-old white man, is safe inside his home when he sees two men, he suspects is two men are attempting to burglarize his neighbor's home. Horn called 911 stated to the operator, "I have a right to protect myself..." where upon he went outside his safe home and shot gunned the two men to death.

Verdict: Harris County grand jury declined to indict

Legal pass: Texas Legislature passed a Stand Your Ground law which meant you don't have to retreat before applying deadly force.

2012, Thibodaux, Louisiana. Byron Thomas, 21-year-old white man, blasts several shots from a 9 mm pistol into an SUV, filled with seven unarmed Black teens as it sped away. Jamonta Miles, 15-year-old Black, was struck in the head and killed.

Verdict: Louisiana grand jury refused to indict

Legal pass: The sheriff and district attorney said Thomas acted in self-defense, based on Louisiana's Stand Your Ground law.

The Martin case and numerous other cases like it proved how easily laws can be interpreted, twisted, and manipulated to the benefit of some and to the detriment of others.

So, what happens when the shoe is on the other foot and the gun is in the other hand?

June 14, 2020, Statesboro, Georgia. William "Marc" Wilson, 21-year-old biracial man, drove with his white girlfriend to get a bit to eat when a truck filled with young whites pulled up. "Me and my girlfriend were very scared that night," Wilson, told a responding officer. "A truck full of — all I saw were white males — white males driving their car at me and are flipping me off and yelling racial slurs." The truck attempted to run Wilson off the road. Wilson, a legal gun owner with a permit to carry eventually fires a warning shot to no avail. Wilson's next shot was at the truck, and inside a white girl was struck killed.

Verdict: Wilson is convicted of involuntary manslaughter for a shooting that he says was in self-defense against a racist attack. Prosecutors, though, were seeking a conviction for felony murder.

Legal pass: Prosecutors argued that Wilson did not need to fire his weapon; while the defense contended that he exercised legal self-defense under the state's Stand Your Ground law.

The first lesson these

cases should have taught Blacks was that a precedence has been established for when and how to stand your ground. The second lesson is that the protection these laws seek to provide seldom (almost never) apply to Blacks.

Wilson learned that even when you're half white, you're still half Black and the laws do hold you accountable and/or penalize you for being Black while in public.

One of Wilson's cousins on his white side of the family told a news source, "If you put me in Marc's shoes, there's no way that I would've been prosecuted."

"Odds are I would've been given a medal — probably gotten a parade in my name. It's unreal how he was treated just because he's a little bit more tan than I am."

There is much validity in what the cousin had to say.

Studies that examined racial disparities in Stand Your Ground cases discovered that defendants went free almost 70 percent of the time. After a 2020 study of the racial disparity in these cases, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concluded, "[W]hite-on-Black homicides have justifiable findings 33 percentage points more often than Black-on-white homicides," and that "stand your ground" laws greatly contributed to that disparity.

Additionally, a recent Tampa Bay Times inquiry discovered that since 2005 there have been almost 200 instances where Stand Your Ground laws greatly contributed to prosecutors' decisions, jury acquittals, or a judge's decision to dismiss

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NIH awards \$200M to enable creative scientists to push the boundaries of biomedical science

BETHESDA (Maryland) -- NIH to award over \$200 million to support potentially transformative biomedical research projects: The 2022 NIH Director's Awards enable exceptionally creative scientists to push the boundaries of biomedical science.

The High-Risk, High-Reward Research program, supported by the Common Fund at the National Institutes of Health has awarded 103 new research grants to support highly innovative scientists who propose visionary and broadly impactful meritorious behavioral and biomedical research



National Cancer Institute / Unsplash

projects. Awards include the impact exposure to fracking might have on pregnancy and conception; how brain mechanisms influence memory perfor-

mance; the neural basis of social bias and association using the female songbird as a model; tissue regeneration using the uterus as a model; a mixed methods examination of skin tone and health among African Americans across the United States; and a new model organism to lead in the development of an HIV vaccine. The 103 awards total approximately \$285 million in support from the institutes, centers, and offices across NIH over five years beginning in 2022, pending the availability of funds.

"The science advanced by these researchers is

poised to blaze new paths of discovery in human health," said Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., who is performing the duties of the Director of NIH. "This unique cohort of scientists will transform what is known in the biological and behavioral world. We are privileged to support this innovative science."

The High-Risk, High-Reward Research program supports investigators at each career stage who propose innovative research that, due to their inherent risk, may struggle in the traditional NIH peer-review process despite their

transformative potential. Investigators seeking program support are encouraged to think beyond traditional bounds and to pursue trailblazing ideas in any area of research relevant to the NIH's mission to advance knowledge and enhance health.

The Common Fund oversees programs that pursue major scientific opportunities and gaps throughout the research enterprise, are of significant importance to NIH, and require collaborations across the agency to succeed. The

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ABORTION, from Page 1

Percentage of Legal Abortions (per 1000 births) by Race in Republican States that have Abolished Abortion—2019			
Location	White	Black	Hispanic
United States	33	38	21
Alabama	30	62	5
Arizona	38	11	41
Arkansas	44	47	7
Idaho	68	3	25
Kentucky	56	34	7
Mississippi	20	74	4
South Dakota	63	11	10
Tennessee	39	51	6
Texas	26	28	39
West Virginia	83	13	NR
Louisiana	State did not report, did not report by race, or did not meet reporting standards for race.		
Missouri			
Oklahoma			
Wisconsin			

wide for each of those years. WHO also estimates that over 25 million of those abortions were performed in unsafe conditions, sometimes by individuals who lacked the proper training for such a sensitive procedure.

In the "good old days" of the 1950s and 1960s, an estimated 1.2 million illegal abortions occurred each year.

The 1973 Roe decision caused the number of illegal U.S. abortions between

the years 1972 and 1974 to plunge from 130,000 to 17,000, which meant safer environments became accessible for many more women—but not for women of all races.

During that same period, pregnancy-related deaths in 1972 and 1973 were attributed to Black women at a rate of two Black deaths to one white death.

Traditionally, legal and safe abortions have been reserved for white individuals who possessed Her-

schel Walker-type money and could afford adequate healthcare.

In New York between, 1951 and 1962, 88% of legal abortions were performed by private physicians. Because some states allowed for abortions, affluent women were able to access safer, medically sound terminations, and avoid the possibility of septic infections that are a byproduct of unsafe medical conditions.

On the other hand, poverty has a way of penalizing the impoverished.

Black and Hispanic women—who have the highest rates of rape-related pregnancies—are three times more likely to attempt a self-induced abortion out of desperation.

A query entitled Number of U.S. "Legal Abortion" Survey by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Guttmacher Institute showed that there are still a great number of American women who are opting to end their pregnancy. In 2018 for instance there were a total of

619,591 legal abortions documented in the U.S. In 2019 the documented number of abortions rose to 629,898. Then in 2020, the number of documented abortions grew exponentially to a total of 930,160.

Lovers of Life should push toward the goal of promoting safe abortions for all women regardless of race or

socioeconomic status because abortions have been and will always be a part of us. The alternative for a distressed woman is a self-managed abortion or self-induced miscarriage abortion performed without medical assistance. These self-reparative methods often involve herbal medicines, sharp tools, force-

ful massage, or achieved through other creative (more dangerous) methods.

Abortion is not merely an issue for an individual state or a collective nation to consider. Abortion and abortion safety is an issue the entire world must consider as the number of unsafe abortions worldwide is continuously astronomical.

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Delta participates in the 51st annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Delta continued to elevate the conversation on equity by convening a panel of our partners during the recent 51st Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. in Washington, D.C. The first time Delta has participated in this esteemed gathering of policy experts, community leaders and Members of Congress, the panel featured leaders from Goal Setter, OneTen, Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ) and the Organization of Black Aviation Professionals (OBAP).

"It was a uniquely intentional conversation with partners we are working with to disrupt inequitable systems," said Ashley Black, Managing Director of Equity Strategies in the Office of Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. "We were honored to host this conversation with an audience of influential and action-focused conference attendees to invite them to join us, and each of our partners, in this work to connect people to equitable outcomes."

Delta is actively engaged with each organization



Delta's "Equity is the Motive: Corporate Partnerships Driving Outcomes with Impact" panel featured: (left to right: Ashley Black, Managing Director of Equity Strategies – Delta Air Lines, Maurice Jones, CEO – OneTen, Justin Biassou, Board of Directors – Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, Tanya Van Court, CEO – Goal Setter, Ashley Furst, Senior Program Manager – Responsible Business Initiative for Justice. (Photo: Imagine Photography, Washington, DC. - a Black owned company)

to accelerate measurable change in the way we do business — from reimagining our talent strategies and hiring practices to inspiring the next generation of aviation professionals — and we are influencing other corporations and organizations to do the same.

Taylor Collins, Delta Board Council representative for Reservations and Customer Care and Eric Hendrick, Director, Pilot Outreach, Recruitment and Selection also participated in the conference engaging with key government and other stakeholders.

During Delta's panel, Biassou put it simply that "without OBAP, and support from Delta, I wouldn't be here."

A little over 20 years ago, Biassou participated in a "Dream Flight" with the ACE Academy in Atlanta where students with an interest in aviation flew Delta to Washington, D.C. to explore the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum. At the age of 12, his journey to the cockpit had begun. He earned his private pilot's license at 17 going on to become a multi-engine instrument rated

pilot. Now a Member of the Board of Directors for OBAP, he noted that "the mentorship, training and career mapping was simply not going to happen for me if not for OBAP and we have to keep changing that, expanding this industry, for more young people."

Tanya Van Court made her point about the critical need for financial literacy with a jaw-dropping recount of stock options she once received early in her career plummeting from close to \$1 million in value to \$20,000 within months, and the fact that she had no idea how or why that happened.

"You don't know what you don't know," she said about then realizing that even with her education and credentials, she was woefully ill-equipped to understand let alone harness financial opportunities

beyond a salary. "I was determined to not let that be so for my children, and for so many other children growing up without access to the knowledge necessary to identify and overcome inequity that prevents building generational wealth."

Tanya, a former executive at Nickelodeon, went on to found Goal Setter, an education-based financial services app focused on a "whole family" approach to teaching saving and investment principles. Last year, Goal Setter launched "One Stock. One Future," an initiative to invite Fortune 1000 companies to make one million Black and Hispanic and Latino youth shareholders. Delta provided 1,000 shares of stock last October.

ALC is CBCF's leading public policy meeting on issues impacting African Americans and the

global black community. This year's event returned to an in-person gathering, after being virtual for two years, in Washington, D.C., and featured more than 100 policy sessions and special events hosted by the CBCF, Members of Congress and sponsors.

"Our inaugural sponsorship with the CBCF was an honor and we will continue to find the best forums to tell the Delta equity story through our partners," said Cherie Wilson – Vice President, Government Affairs - Sustainability and chief organizer of the event. "But to be clear, Delta is committed to more than conversation. We are making tangible investments that drive outcomes with measurable impact on the workforce and within communities. We want to do the real work."

Bank Branch Closures in Black America: Key committees question reasons, effects

By Charlene Crowell

In recent weeks, key Capitol Hill committees held hearings with CEOs of some of the nation's largest commercial banks. At issue for both California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, and Ohio's Senator Sherrod Brown, Chair of Senate Banking, are disturbing industry trends like growing mergers, closing bank branches, and a push towards online services that together create 'banking deserts' in already underserved communities.

Although bank mergers create institutions with

larger assets, for consumers and small businesses alike, these industry moves change where and how communities can access full-service banking.

In opening remarks at a September 16 House Financial Services Committee hearing, Chairwoman Maxine Waters made clear what she hoped the bank CEOs would address.

"Over the past several years, we've seen the system of banking in this country take a dramatic shift," stated Waters. "Our nation's biggest banks have gotten even bigger during the pandemic, in part, through mergers. Regulators have rubberstamped these merg-

er applications for far too long, and it's past time we get to the bottom of who these mergers are actually benefiting."

"I remain concerned," continued Waters, "that branch closures across the country, which are often a consequence of mergers, are expanding banking deserts and harming communities that rely on branches for basic banking services."

In response to Chairwoman Waters, Andy Cere, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Bancorp, offered a different perspective on industry trends, one that em-

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, November 17, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Turney W. Leonard Bldg.

Conference Area

5151 Samuell Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75228

Targeted Improvement Plans for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

The Dallas Independent School District will hold a hearing to inform the public about the Targeted Improvement Plans for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2022, Conference Area, 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, November 14, through Wednesday, November 16, at 5 p.m.

Hard Work + Great Ratings = Good Reason to Celebrate



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Thanks to all the District 6 campus leaders who came out to celebrate our schools in Southwest Dallas, in recognition of the amazing achievement displayed in the recent state accountability ratings. Those ratings forecast a bright future ahead for our scholars! Thank you to all

our teachers, principals and executive directors for your great work, and let's do it again this year!

And the Laurels Keep Coming

Our District 6 teachers are outstanding, and the proof is in the recognition they continue to garner. Just recently, this happened:

- Umphrey Lee Elementary School teacher Lucia Hernandez received her certification as a Master Teacher.

- Five District 6 teachers were among the recipients of the Junior League of

Dallas Grants for Innovative Teaching: Francis Zalace of Clinton P. Russell Elementary, Whitley Green of Hulcy STEAM Middle School, Pamela Jenkins of Martin Weiss Elementary, and Dorcas Kassebaum and Cornelia Harris of Ronald E. McNair Elementary.

Kimball's New Football Coach On Board

Brandon "Bam" Harrison, Kimball High's new athletic coordinator and head football coach, is on board and in charge. The Knights were victorious in their battles against Arling-

ton's Sam Houston (16-9), and Dallas' Spruce High School (23-9). And he's just getting started! Kimball is home to the coach, a 1990 grad who was an all-state wide receiver on the Knights' football team and also helped the school win its first basketball state championship. Welcome aboard, coach!

Milestone for Kimball Basketball Coach

I'd like to send a shout-out to Kimball basketball Coach Nicholas Smith for earning a Milestone Coaching Award during the

2021-2022 season from the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, marking his 300th win. Of course, he's already left that milestone behind and is racking up more wins! Congratulations, Coach!

Mark Your Calendars

- Wednesday, Oct. 19 | Noon – Renaming Ceremony for Otto M. Fridia Elementary (formerly Robert L. Thornton Elementary). In addition, the school library will be renamed for Dallas entrepreneur, community volunteer and activist Emma Rodgers.

- Saturday, Nov. 12 | 10:30 a.m. – Groundbreaking & School Renaming Ceremony for Judge Louis A. Bedford Jr. Law Academy (formerly W.H. Atwell Middle School).

Important Reminders for All!

Voter registration deadline is Oct. 11.

The last day to apply to vote by mail is Oct. 28.

Early voting is Oct. 24-Nov. 4.

Election day is Nov. 8.

Make sure you contact 10 people, and make sure you all vote!

13th Annual Houston Black College Expo held last week

Black PR Wire) – The 13th Annual Houston Black College Expo™ took place Saturday, October 8, at the NRG Center in Houston. Students were able to meet with 50+ colleges, including historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other educational institutions, with partners set to give away over 10 million in scholarships.

With the COVID Pandemic affecting so many underserved and underrepresented students, NCRF has partnered with the Houston Independent School Dis-



Mike Von / Unsplash

trict (HISD) to increase the "college going rate" among Houston area teens. According to a recent Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce report, workers with degrees are nearly

twice as likely as workers with only a high school diploma to be able to attain a good job. "Our expos have helped increase college enrollment as high as 43% at some colleges, we are on a

mission of change by closing educational gaps and producing more future leaders of color, says NCRF Founder/CEO, Dr. Theresa Price.

The expo allowed students to be accepted on the spot, have their college application fees waived and receive scholarships. The event offers a direct pathway for high school juniors, seniors and community college students looking to transfer to a four-year college. Parents are encouraged to bring students as young as 6th grade to encourage

college planning at an earlier age. Students will have access to the African Americans in Aviation Traveling Museum exhibit and a full slate of informative seminars about college and careers.

The event was sponsored by US Army ROTC, Wells Fargo, Toyota, Comerica Bank, and Honda.

Black College Expo™ (BCE) is a trademarked program of National College Resources Foundation (NCRF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational enhancement organization serving

over 200,000 students annually. BCE was founded in 1999 by Dr. Theresa Price to serve as a vital link between minorities and college admissions. NCRF's mission is to curtail the high school dropout rate and increase degree and/or certificate enrollment among underserved, underrepresented, at-risk, low-resource, homeless and foster students. NCRF's vision is to close the gap in educational achievement and eliminate workforce and economic disparities with the goal of ending racism and racial inequalities.

LaSure, from Page 2

"When I was in graduate school, I had a friend who I took health policy and social policy, and she really got me on the healthcare policy track. I always said, 'once you start on health, you never look back because there's no policy area that has the ability to touch so many lives, especially in the federal government.'"

The COVID-19 pandemic has upped the pressure on CMS and other agencies, but Brooks-LaSure recalled similarities to when the ACA became law.

"The ACA was born out of a difficult time," she recalled.

"Before we passed the law, not everyone thought we should focus on health policy. We had the Great

Recession, and one of the pieces of people's financial security was healthcare because one out of every three bankruptcies resulted from medical costs.

"So, it became imperative to pass the ACA, and I think we're at the same moment today. The pandemic has made it more difficult in terms of wanting to do so many things with healthcare policy."

Brooks-LaSure asserted that Americans now have a greater appreciation of why healthcare is vital and why the uninsured and those not having access to vaccines and drug treatments affect everyone.

"I think people have seen health disparities at a different level," she stated.

"I think we now have an opportunity to address those [disparities] if we seize this moment."

To that end, Brooks-LaSure noted the six strategic pillars by which CMS would achieve its mission and measure success:

- Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie America's health system

- Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage, and care

- Engage partners and the communities CMS serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process

- Drive innovation to tackle the health system challenges and promote value-based, person-centered care

- Protect CMS programs' sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds

- Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS's operations

Brooks-LaSure said CMS has already made significant progress on those pillars, focusing efforts on improving health equity and access to coverage by working across all federal agencies.

She told NNPA News-wire that a record 14.5 million signed up for 2022 health care coverage during the enrollment period.

"Investing in financial assistance and outreach allows more people to have access to the care that they

need," Brooks-LaSure stated.

As part of Vice President Kamala Harris's Call to Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, HHS, through CMS, has taken steps to improve maternal health and support the delivery of equitable, high-quality care for pregnancy and postpartum care.

CMS has proposed a "Birthing-Friendly" designation to drive perinatal health outcomes and maternal health equity improvements.

According to a release, the designation would initially identify hospitals that provide perinatal care, participate in a maternity care quality improvement collaborative, and implement recommended patient safety practices.

CMS has also encouraged states to take advantage of the American Rescue Plan's option to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

Brooks-LaSure said history would ultimately smile upon the unprecedented diversity.

"I think that representation matters so much, and we will have changed this country because so many of us are in these roles with our diverse perspectives strengthen policymaking," Brooks-LaSure said.

"The more you have people who come from different experiences, you make stronger and better policies and making sure the next generation see they can sit in these roles."

McKinney celebrates completion of historic silos mural in cultural district

After nearly two months of painting in extreme heat and the occasional downpour, internationally recognized artist Guido van Helten has completed the installation of his artwork on the 100-foot-tall historic concrete silos in the Historic Downtown McKinney Cultural District. The mural will become a part of van Helten's Monuments series, commissioned works on industrial architecture throughout the United States, and has received global recognition.

"For the past five years, the Monuments projects I have been working on in the US are largely focused in regional areas, with the intent of sharing local stories and projecting community voices to a wider audience. This project now adds another southern element linking to other locations in the ongoing series," said van Helten.

Prior to painting, the artist and a cultural researcher spent time within the McKinney community learning



Australian artist Guido van Helten mural on 100' silos will serve as the backdrop for the new McKinney City Hall. (Courtesy photo)

from citizens about their identities, heritage, and cultures to inspire the design of the artwork. Focusing much of this time on the east side of town, particularly in the communities surrounding the silos, van Helten took more than 5,000 photographs, recorded interviews and oral histories, interacted with hundreds of residents, and visited small businesses, non-profit organizations, places of wor-

ship, and even held a workshop with Faubion Middle School students. His encounters included a wide range of demographics, age groups, and backgrounds.

"The artwork is a snapshot of the unique atmosphere and moment in this community as it continues to shift and grow. With a considered, culture-focused approach, I wanted to ensure that the artwork on a heritage industrial structure

remains relevant as this city expands around it," said van Helten. "The figures painted act as semiotic illustrations of the togetherness and promise the city of McKinney provides to its diverse population."

"This art has a lot of layers, which you can see with the depth of field represented in the piece. To me, it represents the layers of our community. McKinney isn't just one thing; we have

a balance of the historic and the new, the old and the young, growing amenities and open spaces, a large city but a hometown feel. Our dichotomy is our strength," said Mayor George Fuller.

As the industrial area east of Highway 5 redevelops, the mural pays tribute to the city's identity and culture. Soon, the silos will serve as the backdrop of the new McKinney City Hall expected to break ground later this month. One of the city's goals for the redevelopment project is to preserve and celebrate the historical and cultural elements of the communities in and around the new City Hall district.

"I see this mural as a celebration of our legacy of gathering together in McKinney and the memories created at these special events. We bring our families together to celebrate Home for the Holidays and the Fourth of July at Red, White, and Boom; we enjoy art and wine at Arts in Bloom and maybe have

too much fun at Oktoberfest. And more recently, we take time to honor and celebrate our rich diversity through events like Juneteenth, Mexican Independence Day, and Diwali," said Mayor Fuller.

Public art has been cherished in McKinney for decades and is integral to the Historic Downtown McKinney designation as a cultural district in 2018. The cultural district includes an abundance of public art projects: the Monarchs of McKinney sculptures, numerous murals, and the three-story McKinney Blooms mosaic on the Chestnut Commons parking garage, to name a few.

"These public art pieces will come together to give our community a stronger sense of identity, help differentiate ourselves, and celebrate the power of ideas and images. These silos are now an iconic spot in our community, and we are thrilled with how they turned out," said City Manager Paul Grimes.

Keeping watch...



Machinist's Mate 1st Class Italo Etkin, left, from Fort Worth, Texas, and Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Lucas Pettis, from Friendswood, Texas, both assigned to the first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) engineering department, participate in a game night hosted by Morale, Wellness and Recreation (MWR) in the aft galley, Oct. 7, 2022. The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group (GRFCSG) is deployed in the Atlantic Ocean, conducting training and operations alongside NATO Allies and partners to enhance integration for future operations and demonstrate the U.S. Navy's commitment to a peaceful, stable and conflict-free Atlantic region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nolan Pennington)

POLLS, from Page 3

charges.

The summation of University of Florida in Gainesville law professor Darren Hutchinson was succinct and directly to the point, "Such findings show that it's just harder for Black defendants to assert stand-your-ground defense if the victim is white, and easier for whites to raise a Stand Your Ground defense if the victims are Black.

"The bottom line is that it's really easy for juries to accept that whites had to defend themselves against persons of color," said Hutchinson.

In moves that are almost defiant of the occurrence of repeated mass shootings and the findings of studies of racial disparity in matters of the gun, politicians who are primarily Republican continue to

ease the requirements for acquiring guns, publicly carrying guns, and lethal use of force by way of the gun.

Texas has been especially egregious in this matter. Gov. Gregg Abbott and other Republican leaders espouse gun control in the wake of repeated school shootings, yet gun laws are making weapons more accessible to even young-er might be shooters.

Despite the findings of those who criticize Stand Your Ground laws politicians, who are almost exclusively Republican, continue to promote gun ownership.

In Texas, Republican leaders along with Gov. Greg Abbott speak openly about considering gun restrictions in the wake of repeated mass shootings—but behind closed

doors they made moves to ease gun laws—like passing the permitless gun carry bill.

The illness is not with Stand Your Ground or any other such laws per se. The illness is contained in those elected individuals who promulgate, extricate, and exploit the laws, usually to the benefit of white shooters.

The cure for this grave social illness which is Stand Your Ground will not be found in the goodness of politicians' hearts. The cure for this illness will only be had at the poll, where newly elected promulgators of this nation's laws and judicial system might revise current gun laws.

To see how an individual Democratic or Republican politician has voted on any gun control law refer to:

<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record>

South Asian play 'Guards at the Taj' takes center stage in Fort Worth

FORT WORTH -- What kinds of sacrifices can be demanded in the pursuit of beauty and perfection? Do friendship, health, even life, rank as acceptable losses? This question is at the center of Rajiv Joseph's funny and deeply moving *Guards at the Taj*, winner of both Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards in 2015, which begins Stage West's 44th season with a 5-week regional premiere run Thursday, October 20.

Humayan and Babur are two lowly Imperial guards, keeping watch over the walls around the newly completed Taj Mahal on the last night before it is revealed to the public in all its glory. Despite their



responsible for carrying out a horrific task decreed by the Emperor. Come morning, they have no choice but to comply, and so they do, but it changes them irrevocably. Can their friendship survive? Can they? And is a creation of such astounding beauty worth such a terrible price? This haunting play is sure to stay with audiences long after the curtain comes down.

"A piercing examination of the nature of beauty, its relationship to power, and its unspeakable costs." — Chicago Reader

Guards at the Taj will be directed by Shyama Nithiananda, seen at Stage West in last season's *JQA*. The cast features Dhruv Ravi

differences (Humayan is a believer in discipline and rule-following, while Babur is a dreamer who questions pretty much everything), these two have

forged a deep friendship, and they banter to pass the time. Unfortunately, they eventually come to the realization that, due to their lowly status, they will be

as Babur and Rahul Joshi as Humayun, both making their Stage West debuts. Mr. Ravi's credits include *As You Like It* for Shakespeare Dallas and *Taming of the Shrew* for Ithaca Shakespeare Company, while Mr. Joshi's credits include *Ocean in a Teacup* at Theatre Row, NYC and *God of Carnage* at American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC.

Set design is by Brian Clinnin, with lighting design by Bryan Stevenson, costume design by Amy Poe, sound design by Ryan Simón, and props and set décor by Lynn Lovett.

Director Shyama Nithiananda was a 2021 recipient of the Garland Wright

Award for Directing at SMU where she received her BFA in Theatre Studies with emphases in directing, acting, and playwriting, as well as a minor in Religious Studies. Regional directing credits include a reading of *Al/Alfred/Alice* at Kitchen Dog Theater, as well as assistant director on *Witch* at Stage West and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at Theatre Three. Regional performance credits include Ellen in *The Little Dog Laughed* at Uptown Players, Callie in *The Pleasure Trials* at Amphibian Stage, A in *JQA* at Stage West, and Poet One in *In Search of the Sublime* at Stage West with Moonrise Initiative.

RESEARCH, from Page 4

High-Risk, High-Reward Research program manages four awards, including two awards specifically for researchers in the early stages of their careers. These four awards include:

- The NIH Director's Pioneer Award, established in 2004, challenges investigators at all career levels to pursue new research directions and develop groundbreaking, high-impact approaches to a broad area of biomedical, behavioral, or social science.

- The NIH Director's New Innovator Award, established in 2007, supports unusually innovative research from early career investigators who are within 10 years of their final degree or clinical residency and have not yet received an NIH R01 or equivalent grant.

- The NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, established in 2009, promotes cross-cutting, interdisciplinary approaches and is open to individuals and teams of investigators who propose research that could potentially create or challenge existing paradigms.

- The NIH Director's Early Independence Award, established in 2011, provides an opportunity to

support exceptional junior scientists who have recently received their doctoral degree or completed their medical residency to skip traditional post-doctoral

training and move immediately into independent research positions.

NIH issued eight Pioneer awards, 72 New Innovator awards, nine Transforma-

tive Research awards, and 14 Early Independence awards for 2022. Funding for the awards comes from the NIH Common Fund, the National Insti-

tute on Aging, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Cancer Institute.

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Dallas, Tx 75237

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022 @ 3:00 - 4:00pm
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm

Luby's Cafeteria

5600 S. Hampton Rd
Dallas, Tx. 75232

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:30pm
Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:30pm

Film Review: 'Till' touches on a painful, but pivotal, moment in history

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(****) “Hardly a moment goes by when I don’t think about Emmett and the lessons a son can teach a mother.” Quoted from Mamie Till-Mobley.

Emmett Till, a black teen, who was murdered by racists in Money, Mississippi on April 28th in 1955.

Writer/director Chinonye Chukwu (Clemency) and cowriters Michael Reilly and Keith Beauchamp (doc filmmaker of the award-winning The Untold Story of Emmett Till) recount this brutal crime largely from the mother’s point of view. A mom whose quest for accountability and justice sparked a new age in the civil rights movement. A crusade that became a blueprint for other Black moms forced into the same situation by heinous acts of violence. Till-Mobley passed away in 2003, but her fighting spirit lives on in this very enlightening and deeply emotional bio/drama.

In 1955, Mamie (Danielle Deadwyler, The Harder They Fall), a young single-mom and widow, has a very respected office job with the Air Force in Chicago. With great trepidation and egged on by her mother Alma (Whoopi Goldberg), she sends her 14-year-old son Emmett (Jalyn Hall, Bruiser) South to Mississippi for the summer to stay with relatives.

Before his departure, Ma-

mie dutifully and prophetically warns her affable son that he must tone down his vibrant behavior, recognize the evils of racism and be on his guard. Hanging with his cousins outside a grocery store, Emmett whistles at and offends Carol Bryant (Haley Bennett), a white woman whose family owns the shop. Several nights later, Bryant’s irate husband, his half-brother and others barged into the Emmett’s granduncle’s house, abduct, mutilate and shoot the vulnerable boy dead.

News of the teen’s disappearance and subsequent killing reaches Chicago. Mamie’s worst fears turn into agony and grief. She’s shocked into action, seeking the truth, accountability and a reckoning. Courageously she stands up to southern racism during her son’s killers’ trial: “Hate is like a virus in the blood of Mississippi.”

Meticulously, with the refined brushstrokes of an artist, the wisdom of a shaman and the spirit of a fighter, Chukwu retells Mamie’s history-making story. Feelings of sadness, anger and ultimately inspiration emerge in ways that will enlighten and move audiences. Ingeniously, as her illuminating bio/crime/drama confronts treacherous bigotry, the film becomes more and more riveting. Wisely, the violence surrounding Till’s horrific death is kept off camera and never exploited.

The family life is endear-

ing, the courtroom drama intense (a la To Kill a Mockingbird) and the smart strategies used to keep this

tragedy in the public eye are on view. When Till-Mobley demands an open casket so the world will

see what they did to her baby, her savvy becomes awe-inspiring. You feel the misery, but you also see an

indomitable spirit put into action.

See TILL, Page 14



Jalyn Hall and Danielle Deadwyler in Till. (Courtesy photo)

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'Pretty Woman: The Musical' is next on slate for Broadway Dallas

Broadway Dallas, Broadway Across America (BAA), and the producers of the "Pretty Woman: The Musical" announced this week that single tickets for the upcoming tour engagement in Dallas went on sale Friday, October 7. Tickets will be available at BroadwayDallas.org or by calling 800-982-2787. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing Groups@BroadwayDallas.org. "Pretty Woman: The Musical" will play the Music Hall at Fair Park January 24 - February 5, 2023 as part of the Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas.

"Pretty Woman: The Musical", based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories of all time, is now on tour! Starring Broadway superstar and Tony Award®-nominee Adam Pascal as Edward Lewis and newcomer Jessie Davidson as the charming and charismatic Vivian Ward, "Pretty Woman: The Musical" springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award®-winning director and choreographer Jerry



Courtesy photo

Mitchell (Hairspray, Kinky Boots, Legally Blonde).

Brought to the stage by lead producer Paula Wagner, "Pretty Woman: The Musical" features an original score by Grammy® winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance ("Summer of '69", "Heaven"), and a book by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J. F. Lawton. "Pretty Woman: The Musical" will lift your spirits and light up your heart. "If you love the movie, you'll love the musical!" (BuzzFeed News).

"Pretty Woman: The Musical" has scenic design by David Rockwell, costume design by Gregg Barnes, lighting design by Kenneth Posner and Philip S. Rosenberg, sound design by John Shivers, hair design by Josh Marquette, makeup design by Fiona Mifsud, and music supervision, arrangements and orchestrations by Will Van Dyke.

Featured in the musical is Roy Orbison and Bill Dee's international smash hit song "Oh, Pretty Woman," which inspired the iconic movie. PRETTY WOMAN

the film (produced by Arnon Milchan - New Regency Productions) was an international smash hit when it was released in 1990.

"Pretty Woman: The Musical" is produced on tour by Paula Wagner, Nice Productions, LPO, New Regency Productions, Hunter Arnold, Caiola Productions & Co., James L. Nederlander, Kilimanjaro Theatricals/Joshua Andrews, Roy Furman, Ambassador Theatre Group Productions, Gavin Kalin Productions, deRoy Kierstead and John Gore Organization. Wendy Orshan and Jeff Wilson are the Executive Producers

and 101 Productions, Ltd is the General Manager.

The North American tour is booked by The Booking Group (www.thebooking-group.com) with casting by The Telsey Office.

"Pretty Woman: The Musical" also continues to run to great acclaim at the Savoy Theatre in London's West End.

Atlantic Records' "Pretty Woman: The Musical" (Original Broadway Cast Recording) is produced by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance and is now available on all DSPs.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Young Strings Program celebrates 30 years

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Young Strings program celebrates 30 years of educating the next generation of classical musicians this year. Established in 1992, the program has served over 5,000 students in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex since its inception, providing them with free access to instruments, expert instruction, outside learning and scholarship opportunities, and more. The program was founded by Dwight Shambley in Dallas with the intention to increase the diversity of American orchestras. Shambley was the only Black performer for many of his 48 years with the Dallas Symphony

Orchestra.

The 30th anniversary of the program will be celebrated at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Showcase Recital on Saturday, November 12, where Young Strings students will perform with piano accompaniment.

"This is the students' first recital of the season and represents hours of practice and work with their teachers since the start of the school year," said Carolyn Jabr, Young Strings Manager at the DSO. "The younger children will be taking first steps into larger works. Our older students, especially the seniors, will be able to use this opportunity to present what will

be their audition material for conservatories and colleges. It's a wide range of talent, experience and music and it's always rewarding to hear."

The Young Strings program has a 100% high school graduation rate and largely serves students of color who attend schools without their own music programming. Participation in Young Strings provides a lasting impact on its students, many of whom go on to pursue higher education and careers in music, fulfilling the mission to increase diversity in arts spaces including orchestras.

See DSO, Page 11



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Amazon to Invest \$150 million in funds that provide underrepresented entrepreneurs with access to capital

(Black PR Wire) Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) recently announced Amazon Catalytic Capital, a new initiative to invest \$150 million in venture capital (VC) funds, accelerators, incubators, and venture studios that provide funding to entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds, primarily at the pre-seed/seed stage of venture capital funding. The company will invest in funds that focus on Black, Latino, Indigenous, women, and LGBTQIA+ founders. Amazon expects to support more than 10 funds and over 200 companies through the next year.

"We've seen incredibly innovative ideas from underrepresented entrepreneurs—from companies offering inclusive health services for women, to startups helping companies mitigate climate impact for underserved communities—and we're convinced that an inclusive investment strategy leads to better returns and innovation. We want to ensure that these companies and their founders have the same access to capital as anyone else," said Peter Krawiec, Amazon's senior vice president of worldwide corporate development. "We hope that our investment will be catalytic—sparking a force-multiplying effect by inspiring others to invest in these companies, fostering inclusion and innovation, positively impacting communities, and creating

generational wealth and financial return."

In addition to capital, the companies in the funds' portfolios will receive mentorship from Amazon executives and gain access to resources to support their business and technical strategy. Amazon teams will also work with the startups to identify partnership and product collaboration opportunities that could accelerate their growth.

Historically, underrepresented founders have had less access to startup venture capital and greater difficulties in securing funding to bring ideas to fruition. Studies consistently show that Black, Latino, women, and LGBTQIA+ startup founders are underrepresented across the total number of funded startups. According to PitchBook, women founders received 2% of U.S. venture capital funding in 2021. Similarly, Black-founded and Latino-founded startups attracted only 1% and 2% of U.S. venture capital funding respectively last year as reported by Crunchbase News. Research shows that these inequities create a negative ripple effect for underrepresented entrepreneurs, including reduced access to networks, mentors, and sponsors. Despite these challenges, diverse and inclusive teams are 75% more likely to see ideas become products and 70% more likely to serve new categories.

Through this initiative,

Amazon has invested in the following funds:

- **Collide Capital** — Collide Capital is a Black-owned seed and pre-seed venture capital fund led by two founders under the age of 35: Aaron Samuels, who co-founded AfroTech, and Brian Hollins, who is a founding Board Member of BLCK VC. To date, Collide Capital has backed over 40 companies, of which 80%+ are led by Black, Latino, and/or female founders.

- **Elevate Future Fund** — Elevate Future Fund, which is overseen by Energy Impact Partners (EIP), focuses on increasing funding to underrepresented founders working on solutions to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and clean energy future. It will also make investments in companies that are led by underrepresented entrepreneurs, are empowering diverse talent, and/or are creating economic opportunity for distressed or disadvantaged communities. Elevate will also collaborate closely with Amazon's Climate Pledge Fund, which invests in emerging climate technology companies.

- **Share Ventures** — Share Ventures is a Los Angeles-based venture fund and venture foundry focused on human performance. Share focuses on solving problems by creating and investing in innovative companies that unlock human potential, in categories including health tech, future of work, people tech,

fintech, transportation, and purpose tech (companies facilitating impact and change).

Techstars Rising Stars Fund — With its first investments in 2022, the Rising Stars Fund is a pre-seed venture capital fund investing in underrepresented founders of color in the U.S. The fund is part of the Techstars investment business that provides access to capital, one-on-one mentorship, and customized programming for early-stage entrepreneurs.

Investors from the VC funds supported by Amazon have supported hundreds of underrepresented startup founders. With Amazon's investments, these VC funds expect to back hundreds more companies and, in turn, help create more jobs and unlock economic growth in historically underserved commu-

nities. "We are focused on addressing financial inclusion across the globe, and Collide Capital has been an investor in us from the ear-

ly days. Collide has helped us to shape our vision and opened up access to future

See AMAZON, Page 12

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DSO, from Page 10

"It is always nice to see other people who are just like you in a position where you see yourself in the future," remarked Matthew Morgan, former Young Strings student and mentee of Dwight Shambley. Morgan was accepted to every conservatory he applied to upon graduation from Booker T Washington High

School for the Performing and Visual Arts, with full scholarship offers from multiple schools.

"Not only has the Young Strings program changed the lives of many students, it has had a profound impact on our staff, musicians, and organization as a whole," said Kim Noltemy, President & CEO of the Dallas

Symphony Association. "100% high school graduation and college acceptance rates and multiple alumni leading successful careers educating young musicians shows the impact of representation and opportunity.

"We look forward to educating and inspiring the next generation of talented, diverse musicians in the next thirty years and beyond."

DNC issues optimistic outlook on the state of the economy

(Democratic Committee) - In just nine months in office, President Biden has successfully turned around a flatlining economy as the economy added 5.6 million jobs at a record pace. No matter how Republicans try to spin today's jobs report, the num-

bers don't lie: our economy is recovering at a rapid pace, Americans are returning to work, and we're putting the pandemic behind us, all thanks to the leadership of President Biden and Democrats.

The U.S. economy added 531,000 jobs in October and

5.6 million since President Biden took office, completely dwarfing Donald Trump's jobs numbers.

Unemployment has fallen to 4.6%, jobless claims are at a 20-month low, and experts agree that today's report is evidence of an economy that is continuing to recover.

New York Times: "The new jobs numbers present a straightforward, sunny story: Despite it all — the virus variants, the reopening struggles — Americans are going back to work at a rapid clip."

Associated Press: "By most barometers, the economic recovery appears sol-

idly on track. Services companies in such areas as retail, banking and warehousing have reported a sharp jump in sales. Sales of new and existing homes surged last month. And consumer confidence rose in October after three straight declines."

Nick Bunker, Director of

Economic Research at Indeed: "This is the kind of recovery we can get when we are not sidelined by a surge in COVID cases. [...] The speed of employment gains has faltered at times this year, but the underlying momentum of the U.S. labor market is quite clear."

BANKS, from Page 5

braces innovation as time-saving, competitive, and convenient tools.

"By using our branch network in combination with digital tools, we enable our customers to be more connected to their financial future," testified Cecere. "Last quarter, 82 percent of our consumer transactions were enabled by our digital capabilities, with 64 percent of loan sales executed digitally. Digital advancements that differentiate us from the market add to the customer experience."

Jane Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, Citi shared testimony that seemed to confirm many of the issues raised by Chairwoman Waters.

"Our retail bank serves roughly 70 million customers in the U.S., where we operate 651 retail branches concentrated in the six metropolitan areas of New York, Washington, D.C., Miami, Chicago, San Fran-

cisco and Los Angeles," noted Fraser. "We have fewer than the approximately 1,000 branches we had 10 years ago, but more than the 450 branches we operated at the turn of the millennium. Roughly 29 percent of our branches are in low- and moderate-income census tracts."

Days later on September 22, the Senate Banking Committee held its own hearing with bank CEOs. And like Waters, Brown's opening remarks echoed many of the same concerns.

"Together, you have over \$13 trillion in assets — that's half the nation's GDP," said Brown. "You have hundreds of millions of customers. You also have the benefit of a federal backstop — a safety net — something that your customers don't have."

"And you profit from all those transactions — to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars. With those profits — and with the taxpayer

support you get — come a responsibility to actually serve your customers and the larger economy," Brown added.

William H. Rogers, Jr., CEO of a recent bank merger that created Truist, was one of the Senate hearing's witnesses.

"Over the past ten years, Truist closed an average of 193 branches annually," said Rogers. "Many of these closures occurred following the merger of BB&T and SunTrust, because the two heritage banks, in many instances, maintained separate branches in the same neighborhoods and even on the same street corners. These closure plans were reviewed as part of the merger approval process and had virtually no long-term impact on branch availability or convenience for clients."

Research by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) documents how still shrinking numbers of bank branches

in Black and other communities of color diminish the economic futures of communities already reeling from a lack of sustained investment and redevelopment in its reported titled, The Great Consolidation of Banks and Acceleration of Bank Closures Across America.

From 1984 to 2021, the nation's number of banks shrank from nearly 18,000 to fewer than 5,000, according to NCRC. More than 4,000 of these closures occurred since March 2020, coinciding with the onset of the pandemic. Further, one-third of bank branch closures occurred in major-

ity-minority neighborhoods and/or low-to-moderate income areas, where convenient bank access is often viewed as central to ending inequities in financial services.

"The presence of local branch offices provides an opportunity for face-to-face interactions that build both trust and financial literacy for individual borrowers and small businesses... Today's larger, less-local banks are still charged with serving the credit needs of the entire community they serve," the report continues. "Changes in how the public interacts with their bank do not create an exemption to

the law."

Summarizing his committee's concerns, Chairman Brown underscored to the CEOs what might have been overlooked.

"It's past time for the financial industry to be as good to the American people as the country has been to you," concluded Brown. "We will continue to hold you to the highest standards, so that Americans can keep more of their hard-earned money."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

AMAZON, from Page 11

rounds of funding," said the founder and CEO of fintech startup EMTECH, Carmelle Cadet. "EMTECH discovered a unique value proposition in rebuilding central banking infrastructure for the Web3 era. As a Black woman-founded tech company, having Collide getting excited about our vision was critical to our journey. We are better with them as partners, and I am excited to see how Amazon is supporting them to help even more entrepreneurs like me."

"Our collaboration with the team at Amazon was born out of our shared passion for innovation in key

areas that improve the human experience at scale. We are aligned with Amazon's customer obsession and grateful to be learning and collaborating with them to build a portfolio of game changing companies," said Hamet Watt, managing partner at Share Ventures.

Amazon Catalytic Capital is the latest in a series of Amazon-sponsored initiatives to boost and support early stage, underrepresented entrepreneurs. Amazon Web Services recently launched the AWS Impact Accelerator, investing \$30 million in a series of programs designed to

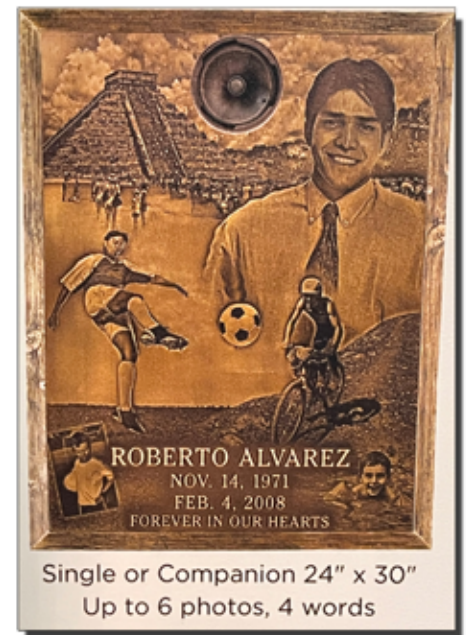
help high-potential, pre-seed startups led by underrepresented founders succeed. Amazon chose North American startups to be part of its 2022 Black Founders Build with Alexa cohort, each receiving a \$100,000 Alexa Fund investment, as well as technology support. Additionally, in 2021, Amazon committed \$150 million to its Black Business Accelerator, an initiative to help Black business owners succeed as sellers in Amazon's stores. Learn more about Amazon Catalytic Capital at amazoncatalyticcapital.com. Funds interested in receiving investment from Amazon can contact Amazon here.

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DART seeks to fill wide range of positions in hiring event

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will host a hiring event for Bus Operators, Police Officers and Fare Enforcement Officers on Saturday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at DART Headquarters, 1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas.

DART Bus Operators

With DART's redesigned bus network providing longer service hours, as well as better access to jobs, DART is hiring passionate and motivated bus student operators. In addition to a starting pay of \$21.13/hour, DART offers a competitive benefits package including paid training, medical coverage after 30 days, pension plan and 401(k) contributions after 180 days, and opportunities for advancement.

Bus operator applicants with an active Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and passenger endorsement will be eligible to receive a \$3,500 bonus.

- \$1,000 awarded after successful completion of training

- \$1,000 awarded after successfully completing a six (6) month probationary period

- \$1,500 awarded after twelve months after proba-



tion ends (18 months)

Bus operator applicants without a CDL, but with an active Commercial Learner Permit (CLP), will be eligible to receive a \$1,800 bonus.

- \$400 awarded after successful completion of training

- \$400 awarded after successfully completing a six (6) month probationary period

- \$1,000 awarded twelve months after probation ends (18 months)

New Bus Operators who live outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth region (more than 150 miles) will be eligible for a relocation stipend of \$1,500, which will be paid after their first pay period.

DART Police and Fare

Enforcement Officers

Employing a community oriented policing approach that emphasizes service, courtesy, assistance and conflict resolution, DART Police and Fare Enforcement Officers are responsible for the security and safety of customers and employees across DART's 13 city, 700 square mile service area.

The DART Police Department is offering a signing bonus of \$5,000

for new DART Police Officers, and \$2,000 for new DART Fare Enforcement Officers. Signing bonuses will be paid in two installments, with the first paid on the first paycheck upon being hired, and the second installment paid upon completion of field training.

DART Police Officers are licensed peace officers of the State of Texas who have all the rights, privileges, obligations, and duties of any other peace officer

in the state of Texas while on the property under the control of DART or in the actual course and scope of their employment.

DART is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer, supporting diversity in the workplace. Job descriptions and online applications can be found at DART.org/jobs. An overview of the DART benefits programs can be found on the DART website.



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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.

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Have Nose, Will Snore

By James L. Snyder

Having been married as long as The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself, there are very few things we disagree.

I run by the idea, "Do you want to be happy, or do you want to be right?" That has guided me through many a storm these past years.

Almost every day, I come across somebody having difficulty getting along with their spouse. My counseling has been consistent through the years, "You don't always have to be right."

That's what causes a lot of problems in relationships. People are obsessed with being right about everything, even when wrong. It doesn't cost a person a lot to give in, even when they might be right.

Our relationship has been very calm except for a few bumps.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is what I call a Vegetable Freak, whereas, on the other side of the kitchen table, I'm

just a Freak.

If my wife doesn't get her daily dose of vegetables, she can become quite anxious. However, when I get my daily dose of vegetables, I also become anxious but in the other direction.

The king on her vegetable table is broccoli. Just the sight of broccoli is very offensive to me. I never had broccoli when I was growing up, and I'm not going to have broccoli until I die.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very focused on her broccoli diet. If a day goes by that, she has not had broccoli, I have not seen it yet.

Often I use broccoli as a bargaining chip for my favorite food, Apple Fritter.

From my point of view, and it's only mine, the Apple Fritter makes up for Eve's apple blunder in the Garden of Eden. That is my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Probably, the biggest controversy we have, which has been with us ever since we were married, has to do with snor-

ing. But, for some reason, I know not why, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage assumes that I snore every night.

Often in the middle of the night, I will feel a sharp elbow in my Adam ribs and hear somebody say, "Stop your snoring." For the life of me I have no idea what she's talking about.

She will confront me in the morning over breakfast with the idea that I snore at night. With a very quizzical nod, I just tried to forget that complaint. I know that I don't snore at night.

"You know how miserable it makes me to hear you snoring all night?"

I return her quizzical look and tell her that I don't know what she is talking about. I stayed up one night and never heard myself snore.

For some reason, she has the idea that snoring is bad for your health.

"Don't you know it's not healthy to snore at night like you do?"

I kept my response to myself, but if snoring is

not healthy, how come everybody does it? I don't want her to hear me say that for various reasons.

I'm not sure about the health damage snoring does to a person. If I had been snoring all these years, according to her, how come it has not affected my health?

One night I got up and went to the kitchen to get a drink of water. Then, walking down the hallway to the bedroom, I heard this raspy noise. As I got to my bedroom, here it was, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage snoring. I only regret that I did not tape that incident because it would have been worth a lot to me.

When we got up in the morning, I was chuckling, and looking at me, she said, "Why are you laughing?"

Do I tell her, or do I pass it off?

Being who I am, I actually did tell her.

She glared at me and said most vocally, "I do not snore, and I don't want to

hear you tell me that ever again."

I chuckled inwardly and was waiting for some excuse to tell her again.

Then I saw it. A little Facebook report said that contrary to what people have believed, snoring is a very healthy thing for your body. According to this investigation, the bigger you are, the more you need to snore.

In sharing this new information with my wife, she was not very sympathetic. "That cannot be right," she said most defiantly. "Snoring is not healthy."

Then I showed her the story and even read it, and she did not want to believe it.

I looked at her and said, "It must be true because it's on Facebook."

Looking at me she said, "You believe everything you read on Facebook?"

"Well," I said as soberly as possible, "I believe this one for sure."

Not knowing what to say, she just turned around and walked away, mum-

bling something I couldn't understand.

When we went to bed that night, I looked at her and said, "I'm going to have a very healthy night tonight."

She didn't smile, but I did.

As I drifted off to la-la-land, I thought of a scripture. Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

It is quite rare when two people agree on everything. It is important that we agree on the right things. We can have our difference but there are crucial issues where we must agree. Every relationship is based on discovering those issues and committing ourselves to them.

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.

TILL, from Page 9

The footage is eye-catching, and the sounds pierce through the crises. Every color (art directors Carlton Lee Jr, Christopher Tandon), thread (costume designer Marci Rodgers), set (production designer Curt Beech) and prop (Cassandra Marie) works to reproduce the times and locations. The proceedings are captured in luminescent cinematography (Bobby Bukowski, The Messenger) and intensified by a pulsating score with evocative acapella voices (Abel Korzeniowski). All scenes and sequences are carefully assembled into an increasingly intense string of images (editor Ron Pantane).

The accomplished cast

includes Frankie Faison as grandad, Sean Patrick Thomas as Mamie's future husband Gene Mobley and John Douglas Thompson in the pivotal role as the uncle who must live with haunting regrets. Goldberg, as Grandma Alma Carthan, takes a very understated approach to her characterization, making the matriarch even more believable. Jalyn Hall's interpretation of Emmett is so vibrant and likable it makes the teen's tragic death even more devastating.

Deadwyler's angst-filled and gutsy performance pulls you into Mamie's full range of emotions. Happy protective mother. Fearful parent. Enraged guard-

ian. Fierce advocate. When Emmett's casket is taken off a train, she cries and moans in ways so primal it will touch your soul. At a funeral home, when Mamie views her son's body, touches his mangled corpse and screams in pain it will break your heart. Deadwyler's display of sorrow is so deep and expressive it deserves an Oscar® Award.

Sometimes the love between a mother and son is so strong it doesn't die, even after death. That's what audiences will see here. That's what they will take away. A love and strength that endures.

Opening in theaters October 14th, with wide distribution October 28th.

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

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The Way of the Cross



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

“... come down from the cross and save yourself!” - **Mark 15:30.**

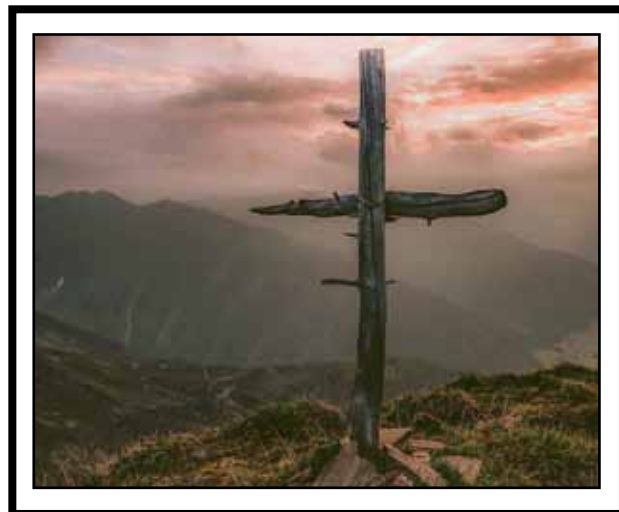
God calls each of us to the cross in order for all the things that are alive in our flesh to die. Daily we are invited by the enemy of our souls to love ourselves and come away from the cross.

What are the signs that you have come off the cross? When you are overly concerned with appearance, you have come off the cross. When the words of others cause you to react and defend, you have come off the cross.

The way of the cross means letting go and letting God have His way in every matter, every relationship, every outcome.

“When God starts to deal with the old nature He heads straight for the center of all that you hold most dear. Allow Him to bring you to the cross in the very center of who you are.

Don't grumble and become agitated when the process starts. Silence and peace will help you much more than being upset. To bear the cross simply, with-



out letting your self-love add all sorts of dilemmas to it, will make your life easier.

The apostle Paul sums up the way of the cross: “For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.”

- **Philippians 3:18-21.**

When you let the cross have its way in you, you will become an overcomer. “How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?”

“How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?”

- **Psalms 13:1-2.**

Have you ever heard someone jokingly say, “It's not easy being me?” This expression is poking fun at their unique personality or challenges they face in life. Well, it wasn't easy being King David.

His life was a life of extreme highs and extreme lows. He was a shepherd, a political leader, a builder, a prophet, a businessman, a warrior, a lover, a giver, a murderer and a worshiper.

He must have been criticized by others as being hypocritical in his early career. In each of these roles he achieved things for God but he also failed God on many occasions. He had a creative-type personality, which is often very passionate with many mood swings.

We see this side of him when he unabashedly

danced before the Lord in front of his subjects almost naked. - **2 Samuel 6:14.**

When David wrote his psalms he was honest about what he was feeling. When he feared his enemies, he expressed it. When he could not understand why God was silent, he expressed it as in the psalm above.

However, David never stayed in the place of despair. He often ended his psalms like this one. “But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.” Psalm 13:5-6.

David chooses to focus on what God has done for him, not what He has not done. If you are waiting for a breakthrough with God, be honest with Him about your hopes and dreams.

However, also affirm your faith and trust in Him to accomplish His purposes through your life. Be an

overcomer.

Because it is, “In the Valleys I Grow.” Sometimes life seems hard to bear, full of trouble, sorrow and woe. It's then I have to remember that it's “In the Valleys I Grow.”

If I always stayed on the mountaintop and never experienced pain, I would never appreciate God's love and would be living in vain.

I do not always understand why things happen as they do, but I'm very sure of one thing, the Lord will see me through. My val-

leys are nothing when I picture Christ on the cross; He went through the valley of death, His victory is Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord for complaining when I'm feeling so very low. Just give me a gentle reminder that's it's “In The Valleys I Grow.”

Continue to strengthen me Lord and use my life each day to share Your love with others and help them find their way.

(*Editor's Note: This column originally ran in October 2014.*)

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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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NDG Book Review: A legend of laughter in 'The Essential Dick Gregory'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The laughter was loud and long.

You didn't think it was funny, though. Sure, you acted like it was all a big prank but you did it to save face and hide the pain of being the butt of the joke. Nothing humorous about that but one day, you'll see. As in the new book, "The Essential Dick Gregory," edited by Christian Gregory, one day, they won't laugh at you. They'll laugh with you.

That's how young Richard Claxton Gregory learned that he was funny: he was small, skinny, father-



less, and poor – all reasons for other kids to make fun of him. One day, he says, he realized that if he came at them with jokes before they could pounce on him, he could turn the tables and control the situation.

He sharpened that talent, inside the classroom and out, using his hard-working mother as a beacon. After thinking about all the love his father was missing, Gregory decided that had little respect for the man.

As a young man, Gregory showed a willingness for activism but he was always more interested in comedy: he'd tried entrepreneurship with comedy club that didn't make money and besides, he hated the physical distance from his family that it demanded. He gave that dream up but by then, a different dream, a comedy career, began to take off.

Despite participating in

protests as a teen, Gregory's first official action for civil rights happened in early 1963, when he delivered food to poor Mississippians whose supplies were cut off. Not long afterward, he joined Dr. King at a demonstration in Birmingham; he grieved Medgar Evers a month later. His wife, Lillian, got involved, too, and was jailed at a voter registration event the fall of 1963.

By 1967, income from Gregory's speaking engagements eclipsed his comedy, and he began eyeing politics as an additional way to make a difference. He advocated for better

health for the Black community, but he endangered his own health through hunger strikes as protest.

And in 1983, he began talking about the real possibility of a Black president...

Because it's based on many volumes, transcripts, and interviews, "The Essential Dick Gregory" is a nice surprise: it's tight, spare, and moves quickly without being bogged down by fluff and extras that aren't needed. Editor Christian Gregory (yes, he's Dick Gregory's son) did a fine job in sharing the nuggets that readers will want to know.

Don't be surprised,

though, if you get the feeling that Gregory is sitting nearby, telling his story himself in a relaxed voice that belies the concerns that you can tell he obviously had. You'll be glad to see that his comedy surfaces now and then here – it's still relevant and still funny – but that's not the biggest appeal of this book. Well-placed interviews and editor's comments add insight that audiences fifty years ago didn't get.

That makes "The Essential Dick Gregory" an overall different picture of Gregory for older fans, and a fresh introduction for new ones who long for it.

USDA and HACU create immersive agricultural trade learning experience

WASHINGTON – The USDA and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities announced a cooperative partnership to provide students from minority-serving institutions an opportunity to solve simulated world trade problems in the new Agricultural Export Market Challenge.

The announcement comes on the eve of the 36th Annual HACU Conference in

San Diego, Calif., where the partnership will officially kick off.

The program is funded through a cooperative agreement between FAS and HACU. The agricultural agency is awarding HACU \$195,000 to serve as the implementing partner for the Challenge in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

academic years.

FAS piloted the Challenge during the 2021-2022 academic year with 13 teams comprised of 52 students successfully completing the program. The teams completed a case study in which they gained real world knowledge and skills across the disciplines of economics, diplomacy, scientific analysis, market-

ing and trade policy. During the Challenge the students developed and presented their thoughtful market entry strategy for a fictitious American company seeking sales opportunities for

a U.S. food or agricultural product in an overseas market.

Recruitment for the 2022-2023 Challenge will begin in October. The team that completes and wins the

Challenge will receive an opportunity to meet with USDA leaders in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Challenge visit <https://fas.usda.gov/market-challenge>.



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 MRS. CATHERINE SMITH Texas Veterans Commission				

"Several other specialists not pictured will also be on the forum"

Information to be discussed:

VA regulations updates Depression Military Service Opportunities Garland Veterans Hospital Updates Veterans Benefits (medical, disability, and others) Agent Orange Register	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Veteran Support Group Locations Veterans Housing Assistance Burial and Memorial Service Information Question and Answer Session
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For more information, please visit the Garland NAACP Unit Website.