



North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

After clinching Senate control in November, Democrats strengthen their majority with Georgia win

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Just days before the Dec. 6 Georgia Senate runoff, the state's most populous city and capital seemed surprisingly like an old Christmas fable: not much appeared stirring.

It was almost as if there wasn't a major election coming, remarked Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes in an internal Slack message from Atlanta.

"There are literally no campaign signs anywhere," Rolark Barnes stated.

Throughout her two-day visit to the Peach State, Barnes noticed only a few pro-Herschel Walker signs and "a sprinkling" of promotional materials for Democratic Incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock. This, due to Atlanta's restrictions on campaign signs.

Nevertheless, an abundance of television commercials continued running right up to the election.

A day after the runoff, the Democrats have strengthened their hold on the upper chamber of Congress, a move that will prevent Republicans from blocking federal and even Supreme Court nominations for the next two years.

During the midterm election, Democrats flipped one seat when Lt. Gov. John Fetterman defeated Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania. The win had assured Democrats of at least a majority given Vice President Kamala Harris' tie-



Andrew Warnock stands strong against Hershel Walker in Georgia Senate runoff
(Photo via NNPA)

breaking vote.

Now, the 51-49 edge will allow Democrats some breathing room, considering conservative West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who blocked some of President Joe Biden's agenda during the administration's first two years.

With 51 votes, Democrats can now afford to lose a member and still pass legislation (although, with Republicans seizing control of the House, it's unlikely any meaningful legislation will pass during the next two years).

"Democrats needed to gain every seat possible from the 2022 election cycle. Holding the Senate this year is a massive achievement, but keeping it again in two years' time will be a gargantuan task," Political Analyst Chris Cillizza wrote.

"Democrats would much rather start

the 2024 cycle with a bit of cushion provided by a Warnock win."

An evenly divided Senate "slows everything down," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer remarked. "So, it makes a big difference to us."

Further, in a 50-50 Senate, committees are evenly split between the two parties, which causes additional steps when a vote is tied. That forces the party in the majority to hold votes on the Senate floor to move bills or nominees forward.

With the Warnock win, Democrats now stand in position to hold an extra seat on every committee, making it much easier to move nominees or legislation on party-line votes.

"It's always better with 51 because

See GEORGIA, Page 7



Grateful for the midterm election results

- See Page 3



The false promise of vaping

- See Page 4



New security app for Big D residents

- See Page 5



Dallas ISD students excel in MLK oratory

- See Page 6



Irving takes in letters to help out Santa

- See Page 7



'Emancipation' misses the mark

- See Page 9



Gallery hosts work of Texas women

- See Page 10



Sister Tarpley: Things to ponder

- See Page 15

Inside...

People in the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Northside	7
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Career / Notices	13
Religion	14-15
Book Review	16



Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and "Like" us)

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

For the latest news and events in DFW, follow us online:
www.northdallasgazette.com

People In The News ...



Ben Crump



Rev. Al Sharpton

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

Ben Crump

Attorney Ben Crump brought the star-studded TheGrio awards crowd to its feet, when he accepted the newly minted Justice Icon Award.

The renowned civil rights attorney and freedom fighter, Ben Crump, recalled the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his acceptance of the award.

“Dr. King concluded that there comes a time when one must take a position that’s neither popular nor politically correct or not even safe,” Crump told



Photo via NNPA

the audience, who loudly cheered their affirmation.

“But that being said, there comes a time when we must take a position because their conscience tells them it is the right

thing to do. I submit to you at the first annual TheGrio Awards that it is the right thing to do to stand up for our children’s future.”

“It was an honor to accept the Justice Icon trophy in the company of so many Black leaders in our community,” Crump remarked. “This award represents our fight for tomorrow’s future – our children’s future,” he asserted. “We will never stop demanding equality and justice.”

Those words were just a sample of Crump’s four-minute acceptance speech that brought the crowd of dignitaries to its feet and

prompted Patti LaBelle to remark, “Ben, you sure talking truth, and we all were listening.”

Crump, who has represented the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others, said if Black America doesn’t fight for its children’s future, they couldn’t expect anyone else to go to battle.

“We have to be willing to fight for our children’s future until hell freezes over, and then, we have to be ready to fight on the ice,” Crump demanded.

“We have to make sure our children believe Black

lives matter, where it can’t be lip service, it has to be action.”

Byron Allen’s inaugural TheGrio Awards honored comedian Dave Chappelle with the Cultural Icon Award, Allyson Felix with the Sports Icon Award, and Patti LaBelle with the Music Icon Award.

And while trailblazers like Tyler Perry and Jennifer Hudson also received honors, the recently televised awards spotlighted the work of “America’s Black Attorney General.”

Broadcast on Nov. 26, the awards celebrated excellence in film, music,

comedy, television, sports, philanthropy, business, fashion, social justice, environmental justice, education, and the cultural icons and innovators whose many contributions positively impact America.

“The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) fervently salutes Attorney Benjamin Crump for receiving The Grio Award for being our courageous global freedom-fighting lawyer,” said National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) president and

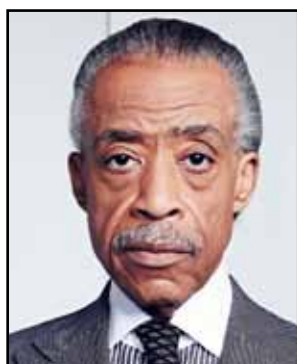
See CRUMP, Page 7

Rev. Al Sharpton

Respected civil rights activist and leader Reverend Al Sharpton recently issued a statement encouraging Delaware Governor John Carney to fill two upcoming vacancies on the state’s Supreme Court with justices of color.

“An all-white Supreme Court would be a terrible stain on democracy,” Sharpton explains, urging appointment of justices of color to fill the high court vacancies.

The retirement announcement last week of Justice James T. Vaughan



Jr. and the expected elevation of current Supreme Court Justice Tamika Montgomery to the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit threaten to leave Delaware’s Supreme Court without a justice

of color on the bench – a shameful distinction for a state with a nonwhite population of more than 30% – including 23% Black and 10% Latino.

Rev. Sharpton stands alongside Citizens for Judicial Fairness in calling on Gov. Carney to ensure fair representation throughout Delaware’s judiciary: “Delaware prides itself on its trailblazing

constitutional legacy, yet the principles of justice and equal opportunity enshrined within that hallowed parchment are suddenly at risk in the First State.

Refusal to act at this urgent crossroads will kill diversity on the state’s highest court, and an all-White Supreme Court would be a terrible stain on democracy. Governor Carney must

seize this pivotal moment and nominate two justices of color to fill both of these looming Supreme Court vacancies.

Should Gov. Carney fail to ensure representation across the state’s judiciary, he will send the awful message that in Delaware, bragging about the Constitution matters far more than the rights and values protected by it.”

Rev. Sharpton is a nationally-known civil rights activist and the founder of the National Action Network, which has been pivotal in drawing attention to major cases such as police brutality, racial profiling and even the conduct of military exercises on a Puerto Rican island.

He is also a Baptist minister, talk show host, and has run for political office.

Steven Horsford

Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford, who earned the distinction of Nevada’s first African American State Senate Majority Leader, will lead the Congressional Black Caucus during the 118th Congress in January.

Horsford, who won reelection to Nevada’s fourth congressional district in November, was announced on Thursday as the CBC’s choice as its 28th chair.

“Over the last 50 years, the CBC has served as the ‘conscience of the Congress,’ helping guide the legislative priorities that have shaped our nation and helped improve the lives of African Americans and all our constituents,” Horsford, 49, said in a statement.



“As Chair, I will provide the leadership, strategic vision and execute on our plans to guide us on a path that will deliver positive socioeconomic outcomes for the communities and constituencies we serve.”

Horsford’s selection as chair comes as the Demo-

See HORSFORD, Page 8

COMMUNITY HOME EQUITY LOANS¹

A home equity loan allows you to borrow against the equity in your house, providing an excellent source of financing for things like repairs, remodeling and other personal expenses, with potential tax deductibility² of interest payments.

Contact us to learn more!

Andrew N. Davenport
VP | Real Estate Lending Officer
andrew.davenport@ndbt.com
972.716.7289 | NMLS: 1012666

ADDISON | DALLAS | FRISCO | LAS COLINAS | PLANO
Member FDIC - ndbt.com

¹Additional restrictions apply; all loans subject to credit approval.
²Always consult a tax professional for full details.

NDBT

MORTGAGE DIVISION



P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

“Do what you say you are going to do ... when you say you are going to do it.”

Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:marketing@northdallasgazette.com
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor
www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette
www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette
www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette

STAFF**Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

Lori Lee

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

David Wilfong

Special Projects to the Publisher

Melineaze L. Curtis

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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

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

Grateful after the November mid-term results

By Ben Jealous

A lot of good news came out of this month's elections—and enough bad news to remind us that we can never let our guard down when freedom and democracy are at stake. This year, democracy itself was on the ballot, and voters made an important down payment on its future.

In 2020, Americans voted not to give President Donald Trump a second term. He wasn't willing to accept his loss and tried to overturn the election. The anger he fostered with lies about election fraud led to a violent attempt to stop Congress from affirming Joe Biden's victory.

What did that have to do with this year's elections? Trump tried to get his people in power as governors and secretaries of state so they could pull off in 2024 what they were not able to do in 2020.

Voters weren't having it. The "Red Wave" that Trump was counting on was blocked. Most of the secretary of state candidates running on Trump's election lies were defeated, which means that important guardrails against future assaults on our democracy remain in place.

To further resist the threat of authoritarianism, we must lift up young lead-

ers who will be democracy's champions for this and future generations. People For the American Way's Young Elected Officials Network is celebrating the election of young leaders as new members of Congress from across the country: Greg Casar from Austin, Texas; Emilia Sykes from Akron, Ohio; Maxwell Frost from Orlando, Fla.; Summer Lee from Brad-dock, Pa.; Robert Garcia from Long Beach, Calif.; Sydney Kamlager from Los Angeles, Calif; and Jasmine Crockett from Dallas, Texas. Dozens more were elected to local and state offices, building a crucial leadership pipeline.

One bright spot was Pennsylvania, where voters elected state attorney general Josh Shapiro as governor, rejecting a far-right promoter of Trump's election lies, and voted to send Lt. Gov. John Fetterman to the U.S. Senate rather than Trump's hand-picked celebrity con man. What has gotten less attention is the exciting news about who will replace Fetterman as lieutenant governor: state Rep. Austin Davis, an impressive young Black man who has devoted his life to community and public service since he was a teenager.

There were other bright spots. Democrats will hold a majority in the Senate,

so Republicans will not be able to stop President Biden from building on his excellent record of naming brilliant federal judges who are committed to justice for all. Voters in Los Angeles elected Karen Bass as mayor and dumped Sheriff Alex Villanueva, notorious for overseeing an abusive department. Voters in several states protected access to abortion. Far-right attempts to build a national "Red Wave" with racist fearmongering about crime and bigoted smears of transgender people didn't work, though they did enough damage to keep some good people out of office.

One bit of bad news came with the narrow victory of Kris Kobach as Kansas attorney general. Kobach made a name for himself with attacks on immigrants and relentless attempts to restrict voting. Voters previously rejected his bids for governor and Senate, but, sadly, he's back.

So is Trump, who officially launched his campaign to get back into the White House just a week after voters said "no thanks" to his most high-profile allies. It's a reminder that in politics, no victory is final. The struggle is never over. In fact, even this election isn't over, as Georgia voters must return to the polls for a crucial runoff between Sen. Raphael Warnock and

Trump's candidate Herschel Walker.

Citizenship is a responsibility that requires constant recommitment. On that front, I'd like to share a bit of exciting personal news. Next year, I will continue my advocacy for a more just and sustainable world in a new role as executive director of the Sierra Club, the nation's most influential grassroots environmental group. I am delighted that my successor as president of People For the American Way will be Svante Myrick, who is just the kind of young leader our nation needs. He was elected to the city council of Ithaca, New York, while still a student, and at age 24, he became the city's first Black mayor and the youngest mayor in the state. He was reelected twice by huge margins, and now he's bringing his leadership and passion for defending democracy to the national level.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in January 2023.

This article originally appeared in The Birmingham Times.

When your friends do not understand your mental health...

By Stan Popovich
Houston Forward Times Contributor

Do you struggle with your mental health and have a difficult time in getting the people you know to be more understanding?

In some cases, your colleagues might give you a hard time regarding your anxieties and depression.

As a result, here are seven suggestions on how to deal

with the people you know regarding your mental health issues:

- Listen to the professionals and not your friends: Your peers may mean well, but when it comes down to it, the professionals are aware of your circumstances more than anyone. A counselor knows what you are going through and can help you deal with your problems. When you have questions about your

mental health, consult with a therapist.

- Don't argue with others: It is important that you do not get into arguments with those who are giving you a rough time. Your number one priority is to get relief from your anxieties. It is not your job to worry about how others may view your circumstances. Your health is more important than what other people may think.

- Your goal is to get bet-

ter: Concentrate on how you can face your fears and anxieties. Don't waste your time arguing with your colleagues who are giving you a difficult time. This isn't a public relations event where you need to get approval from everyone. This is your life and you are the one suffering. Your main focus is to get better.

- Tell your friends to learn

See HEALTH, Page 16

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

www.northdallasgazette.com

Vaping combined with smoking is likely as harmful as smoking alone

(American Heart Association) Smoking traditional cigarettes in addition to using e-cigarettes results in harmful health effects similar to smoking cigarettes exclusively, according to new research published today in the American Heart Association's flagship journal *Circulation*.

Smoking, a well-known link to cardiovascular disease and death, appears to be on the decline. While the use of e-cigarettes, known as vaping, is increasingly popular, there has been limited research on the impact of vaping on the body.

In a large data analysis of more than 7,100 U.S. adults ages 18 and older, researchers studied the association of cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use with inflammation and oxidative stress as biomarkers. Inflammation and oxidative stress are key contributors to smoking-induced cardiovascular disease and their biomarkers have been shown to be predictors of cardiovascular events, in-



Ruben Bagues / Unsplash

cluding heart attack and heart failure.

"This study is among the first to use nationally representative data to examine the association of cigarette and e-cigarette use behaviors with biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress," said Andrew C. Stokes, Ph.D., assistant professor of global health at

Boston University School of Public Health in Boston and first author of the study. "Given the lag time between tobacco exposure and disease symptoms and diagnosis, identifying the association between e-cigarette use and sensitive biomarkers of subclinical cardiovascular injury is necessary for understand-

ing the long-term effects of newer tobacco products such as e-cigarettes."

Researchers used data from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, a nationally representative longitudinal cohort in the U.S. This study's analysis was restricted to adults 18 years and older from Wave

1 of the survey, which was administered from 2013 to 2014 and included the collection of blood and urine samples.

Five biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress were analyzed. Participants were slotted into four categories based on the use of traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes within a 30-day period: nonuse of cigarettes and e-cigarettes; exclusive vaping; exclusive cigarette smoking; and dual use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes. To test the robustness of initial results, the scientists repeated the analyses in subgroups of respondents, including those with no past 30-day use of any other tobacco products.

Of the study participants, more than half (58.6%) did not use cigarettes or e-cigarettes; nearly 2% vaped exclusively; about 30% smoked cigarettes exclusively; and about 10% used e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes.

The analysis found:

- Participants who vaped exclusively showed a similar inflammatory and oxidative stress profile as people who did not smoke cigarettes or use e-cigarettes.

- Participants who smoked exclusively and those who used cigarettes and e-cigarettes had higher levels across all biomarkers assessed compared to participants who did not use cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

- Compared to participants who smoked exclusively, those who vaped exclusively had significantly lower levels of almost all inflammatory and oxidative stress biomarkers.

- However, participants who used cigarettes and e-cigarettes had levels of all inflammatory and oxidative stress biomarkers comparable to those who smoked exclusively.

"This study adds to the limited body of research we have on biologic measures in those using e-cigarettes," said study co-author Rose

See VAPING, Page 7

First of its kind study for detecting Alzheimer's disease closes with unprecedented participation from underrepresented populations

WASHINGTON — In 18 months, the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation (GAP) recruited more than 1,000 participants to enroll in the first-ever head-to-head study of blood-based and digital Alzheimer's (AD) biomarkers.

The study, Bio-Hermes, exceeded its recruitment endpoint, enrolling 24 percent of study volunteers from traditionally underrepresented communities — substantially surpassing the diversity of most AD clinical trials, which typically draw three to six percent of participants who are African American or Hispanic/Latino.

Bio-Hermes trial par-



National Cancer Institute / Unsplash

ticipants included 22 percent representation from African American and Hispanic/Latino populations specifically, with 24 percent diversity when including people who are of

Asian and Native American descent.

Bio-Hermes compares the performance of dozens of blood tests, digital cognitive tests, retinal exams, and speech analysis to tra-

ditional methods of measuring cognition and beta-amyloid positron emission tomography (PET) scans, the gold standard for measuring AD pathology.

The analysis will be enhanced by a full genomic profile and multiple proteomic profiles on each study participant — another first given the depth of the genomic data and diversity of the study.

Today, up to 50 percent of all Alzheimer's patients in the United States receive an incomplete or inaccurate diagnosis of their cognitive condition. While PET scans are often required to confirm an Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, PET images cost thousands of dollars and

are generally only available in large medical institutions. According to a recent report, disparities in access to PET imaging in the U.S. disproportionately impact people who are traditionally underrepresented.

"These biomarker technologies are expected to allow broader access to the tools needed for doctors to provide patients with better, more timely insights into their cognitive health," said GAP President John Dwyer.

The Bio-Hermes data set is expected to inform future clinical practice and clinical trial designs just in time to assist with the surge expected by the pending approval of one or more new

therapies to treat Alzheimer's disease.

"From the first day that we began this study, we knew the field needed to accelerate the validation of blood-based and digital tests that would change how Alzheimer's disease is assessed and how an individual may learn about their risk for the disease. Bio-Hermes won't just change Alzheimer's research and diagnostics. We now have the potential to save and change lives," Dwyer added.

As a privately funded, landmark study, Bio-Hermes involved collaboration with a host of lead-

See STUDY, Page 13



Check us out on Facebook!

Like our page to stay current with all the news and events in DFW!



City of Dallas launches free 'Dallas Secure' mobile phone app to protect residents from cybersecurity threats

Dallas residents now have a new tool to protect their mobile devices from threats, just in time for the holiday shopping season. In partnership with Dallas-based Zimperium, the City of Dallas has announced the launch and public availability of "Dallas Secure," a free mobile security application for Apple iOS and Android platforms. The app will help protect Dallas County residents and visitors from the growing number of cybersecurity threats targeting the immense amount of data and information people house on their mobile devices through financial, health, business, shopping and messaging apps, and so much more.

"Public safety comes first in Dallas — and cybersecurity is a form of public safety," said Mayor Eric Johnson. "It is critical for our residents and for businesses to remain vigilant about their online safety in a 21st century economy. We must work collaboratively to ensure that Dallas is on the cutting edge when it comes to stopping cybersecurity threats."

"The City of Dallas is becoming a leader in closing gaps in digital inequities in the community," said Genesis Gavino, Chief of Staff, City of Dallas. "This app will help inform our



Rami Al Zayat / Unsplash

residents about cybersecurity in a way that makes it easy to understand, which will empower them to take steps to protect their digital privacy."

Dallas Secure was developed by Dallas-based Zimperium, a leader in mobile security, and is designed to secure devices against even the most advanced threats.

"It's important, especially during this time of the year, to protect mobile devices from outside threats," said Councilmember Omar Narvaez. "I am excited that the City of Dallas is taking the necessary steps to empower residents to keep their devices safe."

Dallas Secure equips residents' mobile devices with the technology needed to automatically analyze threats while operating under a strict privacy policy and layers of technical controls that ensure user privacy is respected. The app

works without accessing any personally identifiable information and will not collect or transmit any private data.

The Gift of Mobile Security This Holiday Season

More than half of all web traffic in the United States currently originates from mobile devices and smartphones have become an integral part of day-to-day life. For example, shoppers in the U.S. spent more than \$359 billion through retail mobile-commerce purchases in 2021, up more than 15% year over year. By 2025, retail m-commerce sales could more than double to \$728 billion, accounting for 44.2% of retail sales. This creates an increasingly valuable target for attackers and cybercriminals.

Dallas Secure provides users with immediate protection against new and evolving threats on their

mobile devices. It will protect against text messages falsely promising holiday deals and coupons, malicious Wi-Fi networks tricking holiday travelers with the promise of a free internet connection, rogue QR codes deceitfully placed by bad actors, or numerous other tricks and techniques. After the application is downloaded and installed, it alerts a device user to threats in real time and offers information on what to do about those threats. This helps stop attackers from gaining access to data stored or processed on a device, such as personal credit card numbers or sensitive information from a corporation, government or other entity a device owner works for or with.

"Digital safety is now a public safety issue. We all have so much personal and business-related information on our mobile devices,

making them rich targets for hackers. And many people can't or don't update their operating systems to keep up with the evolving threats, making them inherently insecure," said Shridhar Mittal, CEO, Zimperium. "Being able to keep the residents of our hometown safe from mobile threats makes this a special project for Zimperium, and we're extremely proud to be part of such a forward-looking city that clearly understands and cares about the wellbeing of its citizens — both online and off."

Zimperium protects millions of users every day, and Zimperium's solution detects threats on the device itself, without the delays and privacy implications of cloud-based lookups. This ability is a critical requirement for a privacy-first solution like Dallas Secure. Zimperium is also the only provider with proven, scalable and privacy-protecting Dallas Secure-like implementations.

The development of Dallas Secure demonstrates the City's continued commitment to bridging the digital divide in Dallas. In 2020, the City's Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan was developed in collaboration with Dallas Independent School District. It identifies specific ways the City of Dallas

can bridge the digital divide through infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, and programming.

"As we continue our efforts to bridge the digital divide by ensuring internet access for all, we also have a responsibility to make sure that doing so does not create unnecessary threats to people's security," said City of Dallas Councilmember Jaime Resendez. "This app will go a long way towards protecting our residents."

Dallas Secure is available now and free to download in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Zimperium provides the only mobile security platform purpose-built for enterprise environments. With machine learning-based protection and a single platform that secures everything from endpoints to applications, Zimperium is the only solution to provide on-device mobile threat defense to protect growing and evolving mobile environments. Zimperium is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and backed by Liberty Strategic Capital and SoftBank. For more information, follow Zimperium on Twitter (@Zimperium) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/zimperium>), or visit www.Zimperium.com.

Mayor calls for city-owned land to turn into parks, playgrounds, affordable housing

Mayor Eric Johnson on Monday requested an inventory of vacant, unused, and underused city-owned land to determine what can be transformed into a park, playground, sports court, or affordable housing.

Mayor Johnson made the request in a memo to City

Manager T.C. Broadnax. The mayor, who has made parks a top priority of his administration, previously announced his intention to request the inventory in his State of the City Address earlier this month.

Dallas has become a national leader in developing

innovative green spaces and has continued to improve its parks and programming for families in the city. New parks such as Carpenter Park, West End Plaza, and South Oak Cliff Renaissance Park have replaced former sites of surface parking lots and illegal dumping

grounds.

According to Trust for Public Land, the City of Dallas and its nonprofit partners have brought new parks and trails within a 10-minute walk of nearly 300,000 residents over the last few years.

However, more than a quarter of Dallas residents

still do not live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Mayor Johnson has made it a goal to ensure that all Dallas residents have access to parks, trails, and other green spaces.

The mayor encouraged the city manager to work with Trust for Public Land

and the semi-independent Dallas Park & Recreation Department to compile the inventory. He also expressed his excitement about working with the City Manager's office, Dallas City Council and the City's Parks Department to make the project happen.

GEORGIA, from Page 1

we're in a situation where you don't have to have an even makeup of the committees," Biden said after Fetterman's victory. "And so that's why

it's important, mostly. But it's just simply better. The bigger the numbers, the better."

With a 51-seat majority, Vice President Harris doesn't

have to remain close to Washington when the Senate votes.

Harris already has broken 26 ties in two years in office, doubling what former Vice President Mike Pence did during his four-year term.

Earlier this year, Harris reminded everyone that the nation's first vice president, John Adams, had cast 29 tie-breaking votes during his two terms from 1789 to 1797.

"So, as vice president, I'm

also the president of the United States Senate. And in that role, I broke John Adams's record of casting the most tie-breaking votes in a single term," Harris said in September.

"This kid who was born in Oakland, California, and graduated from an HBCU just broke the record of John Adams. We should all fully appreciate how history can take a turn."

Twenty-two Dallas ISD students advance to Foley's 31st annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competition Semifinals

DALLAS -- In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Foley's MLK Jr. Oratory Competition is designed to highlight the cultural diversity and talent of the Dallas community while recognizing and encouraging the writing and public speaking skills of elementary school students. Hosted and sponsored by Foley, the competition invites local students to present original three-to-five-minute speeches addressing the topic: "What would Dr. King say to us today about hope for tomorrow?"

Twenty-two fourth- and fifth-grade students from Dallas ISD elementary schools have been selected to advance to the semifinals for Foley & Lardner LLP's 31st Annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competition.

The competition kicked off in November with virtual qualifying rounds, which were judged by representatives from Foley. During the semifinal round on Dec.



6, eight finalists will be selected to advance to the final competition from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2023, at W.H. Adamson High School. Criteria for judging include delivery, stage presence and decorum, content interpretation and memorization. Finalists will receive a monetary award, participation plaque and other gifts.

Created in Dallas in 1993, the event's success led to the establishment of the Houston competition in 1997 and the Chicago competition

in 2020. Past winners and participants have delivered their speeches to numerous local and national organizations, including MLK Day appearances at the House of Blues. They have also appeared on local and national television programs, including CBS' The Early Show, Fox 26 News, Oprah, Good Morning America, The Today Show, and The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

The semifinals are scheduled to take place from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at W.H. Adamson

High School and will include the following students:

- Lenzie Loud, 5th Grade, Adelle Turner Elementary
- Aubrey Cardoza, 5th Grade, Arturo Salazar Elementary
- Adrian Rojas, 5th Grade, Arturo Salazar Elementary
- Kennedy Smith, 4th Grade, Charles Rice Learning Center
- Zaleeja Brown, 5th Grade, Clara Oliver Elementary
- Eric McKinney, 4th Grade, Clara Oliver Elementary
- Janiyah Leavy, 5th Grade, Elisha M. Pease Elementary
- Mohammed Mohammed, 5th Grade, Elisha M. Pease Elementary
- Khy'Lea Miller, 5th Grade, Frederick Douglass Elementary
- Hudson Kahle, 5th Grade, Harry C. Withers Elementary
- Leilani Lewis, 4th Grade, Jack Lowe Sr. El-

ementary

- Bria Hader, 5th Grade, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard
- Mayah Tomas, 5th Grade, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard
- Cassandra Curan, 5th Grade, K.B. Polk Center for the Academically Talented and Gifted
- Yarery Johnson, 5th Grade, L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary
- Derriona Beck, 5th Grade, Martin Luther King, Jr. Arts Academy
- Drew White, Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center
- Eli Reed Wilson, 4th Grade, Solar Preparatory School for Boys
- Zihair Douglas, 5th Grade, T.L. Marsalis Elementary
- Daniella Mitchell, 5th Grade, Thomas Tolbert Elementary
- Arayah Gordon, 5th Grade, Wilmer-Hutchins Elementary
- Ella Atkins, 5th Grade,

Walnut Hill Elementary

To engage with and stay up to date on this year's competition, please use #FoleyMLK.

Foley & Lardner LLP looks beyond the law to focus on the constantly evolving demands facing our clients and their industries. With approximately 1,100 lawyers in 25 offices across the United States, Mexico, Europe and Asia, Foley approaches client service by first understanding our clients' priorities, objectives and challenges. We work hard to understand our clients' issues and forge long-term relationships with them to help achieve successful outcomes and solve their legal issues through practical business advice and cutting-edge legal insight. Our clients view us as trusted business advisors because we understand that great legal service is only valuable if it is relevant, practical and beneficial to their businesses.

Biden-Harris Administration continues fight for student debt relief for millions of borrowers, extends student loan repayment pause

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Education recently announced an extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections. The extension will alleviate uncertainty for borrowers as the Biden-Harris Administration asks the Supreme Court to review the lower-court orders that are preventing the Department from providing debt relief for tens of millions of Americans. Payments will resume 60 days after the Department is permitted to implement the program or the litigation is resolved, which will give the Supreme Court an opportunity to resolve the case during its current Term. If the program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023 -- payments will resume 60

days after that.

"Callous efforts to block student debt relief in the courts have caused tremendous financial uncertainty for millions of borrowers who cannot set their family budgets or even plan for the holidays without a clear picture of their student debt obligations, and it's just plain wrong," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "I want borrowers to know that the Biden-Harris Administration has their backs and we're as committed as ever to fighting to deliver essential student debt relief to tens of millions of Americans. We're extending the payment pause because it would be deeply unfair to ask borrowers to pay a debt that they wouldn't have to pay, were it not for the baseless lawsuits brought

by Republican officials and special interests."

On August 24, President Biden and Secretary Cardona announced plans to provide targeted student debt relief to borrowers with loans held by the Department of Education. Borrowers with annual income during the pandemic of under \$125,000 (for individuals) or under \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households) who received a Pell Grant in college would be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation. Targeted student debt relief addresses the financial harms of the pandemic, provides borrowers with smooth transition back to repayment and helps borrowers at highest risk of delinquencies or default once payments resume.

To date, over 26 million

people have provided the Department with the necessary information to be considered for debt relief, and 16 million borrowers have been approved. But court orders are blocking the Department from discharging student loan debt and accepting additional applications.

Last week, the Department of Justice requested that the Supreme Court lift the lower court's injunction against the program and suggested that if the Court does not do so, it could take up the student debt relief case, to provide borrowers the clarity and relief they are depending on.

Borrowers can use the additional time to ensure their contact information is up to date with their loan servicers and consider enrolling in electronic debit

and income-driven repayment plans to support a smooth transition to repayment. More information can be found at StudentAid.gov.

In addition to providing relief specifically targeted to alleviating the continuing economic effects of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Biden-Harris Administration has also taken other steps to support students and borrowers, make higher education more affordable, and improve student loan servicing, including providing nearly \$48 billion in targeted loan relief to over 1.8 million borrowers. Actions within that include:

- Revamping the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program in October, which has provided \$24 billion in loan relief to 360,000 borrowers. The Department's

Limited PSLF Waiver helped eligible borrower count all prior payments made by student borrowers toward PSLF, regardless of the loan program.

• Giving borrowers with Direct Loans or Department-managed Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) more credit toward forgiveness. The Department's one-time account adjustment counts for all months spent in repayment, including payments prior to consolidation and regardless of whether they made partial or late payments or are on a repayment plan toward income-driven repayment (IDR) and PSLF forgiveness.

• Establishing a fair and accessible bankruptcy discharge process to help

See DEBT, Page 16

Drop off a letter to Santa at Irving City Hall

Christmas morning, children wake up with expectations that all the things that they've dreamed of will be waiting under the tree for them. Some may wonder how Santa got there, how he knew where they lived, or how he fit down the chimney. Others just trust that goodness will find its way to good little children.

Sometimes those who

love us just somehow know what we need or want, and sometimes this ability may be owed to a little magic.

Either way, writing it down and spelling it out in a letter to Santa may be a surer way to get what you're wanting.

Good news! The North Pole elves have dropped off Santa's Mailbox at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Ir-

ving Blvd., for children to send their holiday letters to Santa Claus.

There is still time for families to drop off their letters. The box will be accepting letters through Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the mailbox located in City Hall's front lobby. Letters should include a name and

return address. Children will receive a response letter before Christmas.

This program does not include a gift giveaway but relies on the goodness of the holidays to help dreams come true. For more information, call Santa's helpers in Irving's Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 721-2501.



Jesson Mata / Unsplash

GoPass Tap Card Pilot Program extended through 2024

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors has extended the Discount GoPass Tap Card pilot program through December 31, 2024. The program provides riders using any one of nine support assistance programs with a 50% discount on the regular price of a DART local pass.

DART launched the pi-

lot-program to ensure riders who qualify have access to jobs, health care and educational opportunities, reducing social and economic inequalities by making mobility financially feasible to more people.

All new and current DART riders who participate in any of the following programs are eligible for

DART services at half the fare:

- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program),
- TANF (Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families),
- CEAP (Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program),
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-

gram),

- Housing Choice Vouchers,
- DHA Housing Solutions for North Texas program,
- Medicaid,
- Medicare,
- Texas WIC (Texas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

Participants who are renewing their discount must visit the DARTmart store with documentation that verifies participation in a qualifying program. Registration for new users is available at DART.org/TapForHalf, or at the DARTmart store at DART Headquarters (1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202).

Discount Tap Cards can be used on any DART bus, GoLink or light rail, including the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Station.

More information is available at DART.org/TapForHalf or by calling DART Customer Service at 214-979-1111, Option 1

VAPING, from Page 4

Marie Robertson, M.D., FAHA, deputy chief science and medical officer of the American Heart Association and co-director of the Association's National Institutes of Health/Food and Drug Administration-funded Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science, which supported the study. "I believe it has an important message for individuals who may believe using e-cigarettes while continuing to smoke some combustible cigarettes reduces their risk. This commonly-seen pattern of dual use was not associated with lower levels of inflammatory markers, and thus is not likely to offer a reduction in risk in this specific area."

Researchers also con-

ducted extensive analyses to test the results against the influence of related behaviors such as the use of other tobacco products and marijuana, and secondhand smoke exposure. The results remained consistent across the additional analyses.

The large population sample of this study makes the findings applicable to the U.S. adult population. One of the study's limitations is its cross-sectional approach of looking at population data at one point in time, which makes it impossible to establish causality.

Researchers said the study highlights the importance of continued public education regarding the

risks of cigarette smoking and the failure of dual use to reduce risk.

"The results could be used to counsel patients about the potential risk of using both cigarettes and e-cigarettes," Stokes said. "Some people who smoke cigarettes, pick up e-cigarette use to reduce the frequency with which they smoke cigarettes. They often become dual users of both products rather than switching entirely from one to the other. If e-cigarettes are used as a means to quit smoking, cigarette smoking should be completely replaced and a plan to ultimately attain freedom from all tobacco products should be advised."

Co-authors are Wubin Xie, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.; Anna Wilson, M.P.H.;

Hanqi Yang, B.A.; Olusola Orimoloye, Ph.D.; Alyssa Harlow, M.P.H.; Jessica Fetterman, Ph.D.; Andrew DeFilippis, Ph.D.; Emelia Benjamin, M.D., Sc.M.; Aruni Bhatnagar, Ph.D.; Naomi Hamburg, M.D., M.Sc.; and Michael Blaha, M.D., M.P.H. The authors'

disclosures are in the manuscript.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health funded the study through grants to the American Heart Association's Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science which works

closely with investigators at institutions across the country to pursue research that adds to the existing knowledge about the health impacts of smoking and nicotine-related products, findings that can help inform regulation of tobacco products.

CRUMP, from Page 2

CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Taped at The Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, Allen designed the star-studded, black-tie event special to pay tribute to and amplify the history makers, change agents, and artists who define and influence

the Black world.

"I created 'theGrio Awards' to celebrate and amplify African American excellence and the incredible champions from other communities who truly support us," Allen said in a release.

"As a child, strong,

positive African American icons such as Berry Gordy, Jr., Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, and Martin Luther King, Jr. helped me see myself differently and changed the trajectory of my life. Celebrating and amplifying iconic individuals is something we can never do enough of, especially for our children."

Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice honors the 101st anniversary of Black man lynched in 1921

Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice (TCCPJ) honors the 101st anniversary of Black man lynched in 1921 and celebrates the life and legacy of Mr. Fred Rouse with “Celebrate His Name, Fort Worth, Mr. Fred Rouse” on December 11, 2022 from 2pm – 5pm. The free community celebration will be held at 1000 NE 12th St., Fort Worth, TX.

TCCPJ is dedicated to memorial activism and combating racial terror violence. “This event is instrumental in keeping the memory of my grandfather, Mr. Fred Rouse, alive,” explains TCCPJ Board Member Fred Rouse III. “He is the only recorded African American to ever have been lynched in Tarrant County.

On Dec. 11, 2022 from 2pm to 5pm, in Fort Worth, TX, we will be remembering the 101st year of



Clay Banks / Unsplash

his murder. There will be games, food, entertainment, music, and a list of speakers. This is a free community event, and we want everyone to come out and take part in this celebration,” to celebrate his life and legacy.

Last year, TCCPJ honored the memory of Mr. Fred Rouse with several community events, including free tours of Fort Worth Lynching Tour:

Honoring the Memory of Mr. Fred Rouse (a collaboration with local arts and service organization DNAWORKS), the installation of two historical markers (one in collaboration with Montgomery, AL’s Equal Justice Initiative), a memorial march for justice, a prayer vigil in The Fort Worth Stockyards, and the groundbreaking of The Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial.

“Celebrate His Name,

Fort Worth, Mr. Fred Rouse,” explains TCCPJ President Adam W. McKinney, “is an opportunity for community members to continue in the healing processes as we move toward reckoning with histories of racial terror violence.”

“I would be remiss to not notice that this event is occurring during the trial of Aaron Dean. Remembering Mr. Fred Rouse also means remembering Atatiana Jefferson,” explains McKinney. “Both murders were results of police brutality. We will never forget the Black people murdered extrajudicially in Fort Worth and the transgenerational impacts on all communities in Fort Worth. As Fort Worth moves in the direction of justice, TCCPJ stands with the Rouse and Jefferson families.”

When Mr. Rouse, a non-union Swift & Co. Meatpacking Plant laborer,

left work on December 6, 1921, several white union workers and strike agitators attacked him under the accusation of shooting two white men in a scuffle associated with a labor strike. After the debilitating assault, Mr. Rouse was taken to the Negro ward of City & County Hospital in downtown Fort Worth. Five days later, another mob of white men forcibly and violently kidnapped Mr. Rouse from the hospital. He was subsequently taken to the corner of NE 12th Street and Samuels Avenue where he was hanged from a hackberry tree and shot eight times. A bloody gun was left below his feet.

For more information on “Celebrate His Name, Fort Worth, Mr. Fred Rouse,” please contact TCCPJ President Adam W. McKinney at adam.mckinney@tcu.edu.

About Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice:

Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice (TCCPJ) is a non-profit truth and reconciliation organization that develops community initiative projects to reflect on the history and legacy of racial terror violence. TCCPJ aims to inspire a commitment to liberation that brings meaningful reparative justice and healing to Tarrant County. TCCPJ catalyzes education and action by encouraging dialogue and building community to seek equity through community conversations, community projects, public presentations, and artistic expressions. The organization creates a local voice both for those who have been and are targeted for oppression and for those who seek an end to injustice.

Dak Prescott named Dallas Cowboys nominee for NFL’s Walter Payton award

The Dallas Cowboys announced today Dak Prescott as their nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award presented by Nationwide. Considered one of the league’s most prestigious honors, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field. Each of the league’s 32 nominees were recently announced, and the winner is to be announced at NFL Honors during the week of Super Bowl LVII.

The unprecedented challenges of the past few years spurred Prescott to broaden the mission of the community work done through his Faith Fight Finish (FFF) Foundation. FFF now focuses on 4 main initiatives: colon cancer research, mental health and suicide prevention, bridging the gap between law enforce-



Keith Allison / Flickr

ment the communities they serve, and offering assistance to those facing life-challenging hardships.

“I would like to thank the Dallas Cowboys for naming me their 2022 Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee,” said Prescott. “It is a privilege for me to use this platform to influence causes that are important to me, my family and the community. If my voice can champion those who

feel marginalized, need assistance, encouragement or support in an effort to make change, then I feel an obligation to speak up.”

The Cowboys picked Prescott out of Mississippi State in the fourth round of the 2016 NFL Draft. Prescott was thrust into the starting lineup after Tony Romo suffered an injury during preseason and ended up leading the Cowboys on an 11-game win streak,

earning the NFC East Division crown. He returned as the starter for 2017-2019 and began his fifth season (2020) explosively, leading all NFL passers in attempts, completions and passing yards before a devastating ankle injury ended his season. After intensely rehabbing the injury, Prescott returned in full health for 2021, guiding Dallas’ offense towards multiple wins, Offensive Player of the Week honors, career-high stats and a Wild Card berth. In 2022, Prescott again faced adversity, suffering a hand injury in the season home opener against Tampa Bay which caused him to miss five games. Returning in Week 7, he has led the team to a 9-3 record after the Cowboys recent victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

“Dak’s compassion and drive to make a difference in the lives of others is truly amazing,” said Charlotte Jones, Dallas Cowboys

Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer. “Through his foundation he has built a legacy to honor both his mother and brother that is impacting real change. We are proud to call him our Man of the Year.”

As a nominee, Prescott will wear a Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year helmet decal through the end of the season in recognition of his accomplishments on and off the field.

All 32 team winners will be highlighted as nominees and recognized for their important work during the weekend leading up to Super Bowl LVII. The 2022 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year will be announced during NFL Honors, a primetime awards special to air the Thursday before Super Bowl LVII, on NBC.

All 32 nominees will receive up to a \$40,000 donation in their name to their charity of choice. The winner of the Walter Pay-

ton NFL Man of the Year award will receive up to a \$250,000 donation to the charity of his choice. All donations are courtesy of the NFL Foundation and Nationwide.

Fans are encouraged to participate in Nationwide’s 8th annual Charity Challenge, a social media campaign designed to support and promote team nominees. Fans can vote on Twitter by using #WPMOYChallenge followed by their favorite nominee’s last name or Twitter handle. The player whose unique mention is used the most between Dec. 6 and Jan. 8 will receive a \$25,000 contribution to his charity of choice, while the second and third place finishers will receive \$10,000 and \$5,000 donations, all courtesy of Nationwide. Hashtag information and official rules can be found at www.nfl.com/manoftheyear.

Film Review: 'Emancipation' doesn't fit the mold of greatness

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**) It's a miscalculation. This film is built around a former slave seen in a horrific photo whose back bore the scars of whippings and evil vestiges of slavery. Reimagining his life is a noble endeavor, but this is the wrong execution.

Aside from a brief interview and the short news article "Whipped Slave," which was published in Harper's Weekly Magazine in July 1863, little is known about the man in the iconic image. Conjecture and creative license fill in chapters that were never written.

Peter (Will Smith) is a slave in 1863, on a cotton/ onion plantation in rural Louisiana. He's whipped by an overseer, bullied for his defiant behavior, separated from his wife and children and sent to work on the railroads. Hearing that President Lincoln has issued the Emancipa-



tion Proclamation, Peter and other captives escape and head towards Baton Rouge seeking out Union soldiers who control the city. Chased for ten days by slave hunters and tracked by dogs through a labyrinth of bayous, his goal is to find freedom and reunite with his family.

At a Union Army encampment, an interview records Peter's ordeal, the names of his slave owners, the overseer and some details of his breakaway. During a medical examination, two itinerant photographers capture the protruding disfigurements on his back. His

portrait is put on postcards, circulated and that vision horrifies and galvanizes abolitionists. Peter has a choice, work on a Union farm or join the Union army. He chooses the latter.

The tragedy of the real man's story and his survival are worthy of a dramatization. The avenue chosen by the film's producers and screenwriter Bill Collage (Tower Heist) is what may give discerning audiences pause. Peter's tale is told in the action/thriller vein. It's a genre director Antoine Fuqua has honed over his career with thrillers (Replacement Killers) and he-

ro-worship action movies (The Equalizer). This might have been a good time for the director to change course and make a respectful, distinguished and historical production. After all, if Tyler Perry could curb his tendency to make cheap comedies and create the deeply moving and haunting A Jazzman's Blues, certainly Fuqua could step out of his comfort zone too.

Oddly, the film is divided into two distinct segments: the escape and Union/Confederate battles. Initial scenes on a plantation are steeped in slave porn: Racist, taunting epithets. Beat-

ings and whippings. Black men dragged by horses, attacked by dogs and shot in the head. They're branded on the face with hot irons and young Black girls are leered at by white men. Maybe the dehumanizing language, violence and degradation were part of the times, but in this instance, it just feels like cheap emotion-baiting fuel to rev up action fans.

As Peter flees, the camerawork (B&W with hints of sepia by cinematographer Robert Richardson, Kill Bill: Vol 1) favors shots of slave hunters on horseback and menacing hounds

tracking Peter and the other escapees. These chase scenes feel too cowboy-ish, like Fuqua's The Magnificent Seven. One of the cheesiest sequences comes when Peter wrestles an alligator underwater. He finally steps out of the quagmire, you think he's the victor, then the gator attacks one more time. Like a monster in a tacky horror film.

Nothing about this take on America's enslavement of millions of Africans feels new. In 1989, Glory, featuring Denzel Washington's stirring performance, de-

See FILM, Page 16

Have Medicare questions? I have answers.

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

It's time to take advantage.



Lamonica Thomas
Licensed Sales Agent
lathomas55@gmail.com
www.MyUHCagent.com/lamonica.thomas
(972) 249-8907
TTY 711

Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. ©2022 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved. Y0066_23SPRJ55189_C



SPRJ55189



NOW BOARDING.

We offer fast and convenient service to DFW International Airport and Dallas Love Field, every day of the week.

DFW Airport
ORANGE LINE to DFW Airport Station

Dallas Love Field
Inwood/Love Field Station
to **LOVE LINK**

Plan your trip at
DART.org/airports



DART table

Common Thread Collective of six female Texas artists currently on exhibit at Green Mezzanine-Gallery

The work of Common Thread Collective is coming to the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. The installation will be on exhibit from December 1-31, 2022, in the Eisemann Center's Forrest & Virginia Green Mezzanine Gallery.

Common Thread Collective is a group of six female Texas artists who share a passion for art and collaboration. Each artist brings her own style and voice to the collection that will be on display the entire month of December. Viewers will enjoy a wide range of inspirations and influences across a variety of mediums.

The artists comprising Common Thread Collective include Michelle Noah, Leslie Montena, Lana Housewright, Audra Curlett, Lindsay Brunkenhoefer, and Betsy Ferguson.

As part of their mission to share their passion for the arts, the artists of Common Thread Collective are hosting two opening events. By meeting face-to-face with their guests and sharing the



meaning behind their work, Common Thread Collective's hope is to encourage others and share their heart through use of the visual arts.

At the opening reception, enjoy the first exclusive view of the show as you kick off the holiday season in style. Mix and mingle with friends as you enjoy these new works by the six artists of Common Thread Collective Friday, December 2, 2022, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Meet the artists and get to know each artist and the inspiration behind their work as they answer questions and share insights about each piece. Come and enjoy this wonderful afternoon of art with the

whole family on Sunday, December 4, 2022, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Current information about the exhibition can be found through the group's social media account on Instagram @common.thread.collective

Gallery hours are 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday and during all public events. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082 in the Galatyn Park Urban Center adjacent to the Galatyn Park DART rail station. For more information on exhibits and events, visit the website at www.eisemanncenter.com.

Trevor Noah hosts Black Theater Night for Broadway's 'A Strange Loop'

Trevor Noah, comedian, author and acclaimed host of The Daily Show, recently hosted a "Black Theater Night" for the Tony-winning Best Musical A Strange Loop, complete with a hilarious and insightful cast talkback. The event was open to all theater lovers, but offered a special invitation to Black theatergoers.

Playwright, Composer and Lyricist Michael R. Jackson, creator of A Strange Loop; Choreographer Raja Feather Kelly and Musical Director Rona Siddiqui joined Noah and cast members James Jackson, Jr.; L Morgan Lee;



Trevor Noah hosts talkback on Tuesday for Broadway's A Strange Loop, here pictured with Playwright, Composer and Lyricist Michael R. Jackson, creator of the Tony Award Best Musical; and its Choreographer Raja Feather Kelly (Avery Brunkus)

John-Michael Lyles; John-Andrew Morrison; Jon-Michael Reese; Jaquel Spivey and Jason Veasey for the talkback.

"I've now been to A Strange Loop four times and

it's funny [but] every single time I come I feel like I'm focusing on something different, I'm learning something different and there's

See NOAH, Page 11

BROADWAY'S "EUPHORIC CELEBRATION!"

Entertainment

SIX

THE MUSICAL



DECEMBER 6 - 25
WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE

BroadwayDallas.org

Germania
INSURANCE
BROADWAY SERIES

PRESENTED BY BROADWAY DALLAS



TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS

American
Airlines



The Dallas Morning News

Due to the nature of live entertainment, dates, times, performers, and prices are subject to change. All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. Tickets are subject to additional fees. There is an eight (8) ticket limit per account, billing address or credit card. Orders that exceed this limit will be cancelled without notice, including multiple orders with the same account, billing address or credit card. No refunds or exchanges. Tickets are subject to the Broadway Across America® Standard Ticket Terms and Conditions. By purchasing a Ticket from Broadway Across America, you agree to such Terms and Conditions.

Construction adds 20,000 employees in November as average hourly pay jumps more than 6 percent, outpacing overall private sector increase

Record-tying low unemployment rate of 3.9 percent and elevated number of job openings suggest construction industry continues to fall short of hiring as many workers as it needs.

Construction companies added 20,000 employees in November and continued to raise wages for hourly workers more steeply than other sectors as the industry's unemployment rate tumbled, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of new government data. Association officials said the data shows that firms would have added significantly more workers if they could find more people to hire.

"It is heartening that both



Danny Lau / Unsplash

residential and nonresidential construction firms were able to add employees in November," said. "But the number of job openings continues to outpace hiring, suggesting employers wanted to bring on many

more workers than they are able to find."

Construction employment totaled a record-high 7,750,000 in November, an increase of 20,000 for the month and 248,000 or 3.3 percent from a year ear-

lier. Nonresidential firms—comprising nonresidential building and specialty trade contractors along with heavy and civil engineering construction firms—added 16,300 employees in November. Residential building and specialty trade contractors together added 3,900 employees.

Pay levels in the construction industry continued to increase in November at a faster pace than in the overall private sector. Average hourly earnings for production and non-supervisory workers in construction—mostly hourly craft workers—climbed by 6.1 percent, from \$31.04 in November 2021 to \$32.94 last month. That increase exceeded the 5.8 percent

rise in average pay for all private sector production workers. Such workers in construction now earn an average of 17.2 percent more per hour than in the private sector as a whole.

The unemployment rate among jobseekers with construction experience decreased from 4.7 percent in November 2021 to 3.9 percent last month, tying the 2018 rate for the lowest ever for November. The number of unemployed construction workers fell by 16 percent, from 469,000 in November 2021 to 393,000 in November of 2022.

A separate government report on Wednesday showed there were 377,000 job openings in construc-

tion at the end of October, which exceeded the number of employees—341,000—hired during that month. The excess of job openings over hires indicated the industry wanted to hire more than twice as many workers as it was able to find in the current low-unemployment environment, Simonson said.

Association officials noted they were taking steps to help, including running digital advertising recruiting campaigns and working to increase employee retention rates in the industry. But too few students are exposed to construction career opportunities in school as educators encourage

See JOBS, Page 13

NOAH, from Page 10

a different part of the play that almost gets revealed to me," said Noah, who called the show, "one of the most spoken about and one of the most lauded productions on Broadway." The comic also congratulated the show on its recent Grammy Award nomination for Best Musical Theater Album.

Noah further said: "What I find interesting about it in particular is the first time you watch the play, for instance, you may think, depending on who you are, 'Oh, this is a play about Black and white.' The second time you watch it you may go, 'Oh no. This is a play about religion and how it controls people's lives

and how it tells us how we should be or shouldn't be.' Then it becomes about acceptance. Each time it feels like there is a different layer. And really, the more I watch it, I realize it almost feels like a commentary on all these little prisons, all these structures, all these systems and I guess the most confining one being our minds."

There are only seven more weeks to see the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Strange Loop*, which will play its final Broadway performance on January 15. The show opened April 26, to critical acclaim at the Lyceum Theatre (149 West 45th Street). The musical

is directed by Tony Award nominee Stephen Brackett, choreographed by Kelly and produced by Barbara Whitman, along with Page 73 Productions, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Playwrights Horizons.

Meet Usher: a Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer...

Michael R. Jackson's Pulitzer Prize-winning, blisteringly funny masterwork exposes the heart and soul of a young artist grappling with desires, identity, and instincts he both loves and loathes. Hell-bent on breaking free of his own self-perception, Usher

wrestles with the thoughts in his head, brought to life on stage by a hilarious, straight-shooting ensemble.

ble. Bold and heartfelt in its truth-telling, *A Strange Loop* is the big, Black, and queer-ass Great American

Musical for all.

For more information on *A Strange Loop* visit <https://strangeloopmusical.com>.

HORSFORD, from Page 2

crats fall into the minority in the House.

Known for successfully working across party lines and being calm under the everyday pressures of Congress, has continued his work to ensure veterans and seniors citizens, receive needed benefits.

He authored and passed the Nevada Lands Bill to create jobs across the

state and fought to protect a woman's right to make healthcare decisions.

In addition to Horsford's chairmanship, the CBC announced Rep. Yvette Clarke, 58, of New York as first vice chair; Rep. Troy Carter, 59, of Louisiana as second vice chair; Rep. Lucy McBath, 62, of Georgia as secretary; and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, 60, as

whip.

"I am so honored to have been elected as the CBC Secretary for the 118th Congress. It is always necessary we continue to forge a path toward getting into Good Trouble and do the work to make life better for American families," McBath asserted.

"Together, we must build a brighter, more just future for our communities, our caucus, and our country."



**Ed Bell
Construction
Company**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 1, 2022

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- **Roller Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Form Setter (Structures, Paving)**
- **Paving Machine Operator (Paving)**
- **Boom Mobile Crane Operator (CDL)**
- **Concrete Finisher (Paving, Structures)**
- **CDL Drivers (Water Truck, End Dump)**
- **Laborer (Earthwork, Underground, Paving)**
- **Loader Operator (Earthwork, Underground)**
- **Excavator Operator (Earthwork, Underground)**

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs)

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**

**Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com**

City of Dallas receives \$55 million in New Market Tax Credits allocation to spur investment and economic growth in underserved areas

The Dallas Development Fund (DDF), a community development entity (CDE) managed by the Office of Economic Development, was awarded a \$55 million allocation in New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) to continue making impactful investments in underserved areas of Dallas.

"This allocation will make it possible for us to continue our work in bringing good-paying new jobs and needed services like healthcare, education, and childcare to residents living in historically underserved areas," said Councilmember Tennell Atkins, Chairman of the City's Economic Development Committee.

Created in 2009 by the Dallas City Council, DDF is a City-controlled non-profit organization that uses NMTC to provide funding for job-creating and social service projects in eligible low-income communities within the City of Dallas.

"The NMTC award is very competitive, but DDF has an impressive track re-



Mark Patterson / Unsplash

cord, receiving a total of five allocations dating back to 2009," City Manager T.C. Broadnax said. "Beyond that, we are the only municipal CDE in Texas to receive its own NMTC allocation, ever."

DDF's previous allocations in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017 total \$185 million and have supported numerous

projects throughout Dallas, with a focus on Southern Dallas.

DDF has issued a Call for Projects to solicit projects to be considered for funding under this current allocation. DDF will accept projects on a rolling basis as funds remain available.

The New Markets Tax Credit Program, established

by Congress in December 2000, permits individual and corporate taxpayers to receive a non-refundable tax credit against federal income taxes for making equity investments in financial intermediaries known as Community Development Entities (CDEs). CDEs that receive the tax credit allocation authority under the program are domestic corporations or partnerships that provide loans, investments, or financial counseling in low-income urban and rural communities. The tax credit provided to the investor totals 39% of the cost of the investment and is claimed over a seven-year period. The CDEs in turn use the capital raised to make investments in low-income communities. CDEs must apply annually to the CDFI Fund to compete for New

Markets Tax Credit Program allocation authority. Since the inception of the NMTC Program, the CDFI Fund has completed 18 allocation rounds and has made 1,461 awards totaling \$71 billion in tax allocation authority. This includes \$3 billion in Recovery Act Awards and \$1 billion of special allocation authority used for the recovery and redevelopment of the Gulf Opportunity Zone. To learn more about the New Markets Tax Credit Program, please visit www.cdfifund.gov/nmtc

Since its creation in 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded more than \$5.5 billion to CDFIs, community development organizations, and financial institutions through: the Bank Enterprise Award Program; the Capital Magnet Fund; the CDFI Rapid Response

Program; the Community Development Financial Institutions Program, including the Healthy Food Financing Initiative; the Economic Mobility Corps; the Financial Education and Counseling Pilot Program; the Native American CDFI Assistance Program; and the Small Dollar Loan Program. In addition, the CDFI Fund has allocated more than \$71 billion in tax credit allocation authority to Community Development Entities through the New Markets Tax Credit Program, and guaranteed bonds for over \$2.1 billion through the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.

Projects can be submitted online. More information about the City's NMTC program can be found here: <https://dallasecdev.org/259/New-Markets-Tax-Credits>.

NOTICE OF SALE

Addison Airport Storage by Southern Star
4485 Glenn Curtiss Dr. Addison, TX 75001
(972) 380-2112

Personal property will be sold or otherwise disposed of at public sales on the dates & times indicated below to satisfy Owners Lien for rent & fees due. All items or spaces may not be available for sale. Credit or debit cards ONLY for all purchases & tax resale certificates required, if applicable. OWNER RETAINS THE RIGHT TO BID.

614 Johnson, Jasmine

Auction will be held at www.lockerfox.com and will end on or after 9:45 AM CST on 12/20/2022.



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.



Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and "Like" us)

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

U.S. Department of commerce announces 51 'build to scale' grants increasing inclusive access to entrepreneurial support and fueling innovation and tech-based economic development

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo recently announced that the Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding 51 "build to Scale" grants totaling \$47 million to organizations that support technology entrepreneurs, catalyze innovation and fuel economic growth.

EDA's "Build to Scale" program provides annual grants that aim to accelerate technology entrepreneurship by increasing inclusive access to entrepreneurial support and startup capital. The 2022 awardees will leverage an additional \$48 million in matching funds from a variety of private



Microsoft 365 / Unsplash

and public sector sources. These EDA investments support advanced manufacturing, bioscience, clean energy and blue economy clusters in regions throughout the United States.

"Strengthening technolo-

gy ecosystems are a critical key to the Biden Administration's efforts to build a stronger America," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Innovation and entrepreneurship have long been keys to

American success and will continue to strengthen our collective economic and national security, as well as individual prosperity and well-being."

"EDA is proud to partner with this year's 'Build to Scale' grantees as they invest in entrepreneurs and create equitable access to capital in their communities," said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo. "These projects will give the next generation of industry-leading companies a seminal boost that will result in job creation and private investment – potentially transforming a regional economy and creating eco-

nommic opportunity beyond what we can foresee."

The 2022 Build to Scale program was comprised of two competitions—the Venture Challenge and the Capital Challenge. The Venture Challenge supports programs that enable high-growth technology entrepreneurship and foster inclusive access to proven entrepreneurship support models. The Capital Challenge increases access to capital in communities where risk capital is in short supply by providing operational support for early-stage investment funds, networks, and training programs that focus on both traditional and hybrid equity-based financing.

JOB, from Page 11

most students to pursue college degrees and office jobs, they warned. As a result, high-paying construction positions remain unfilled while many college graduates struggle to pay off student loans in lower paying jobs.

"Public officials are missing a great opportunity to put many more people on the path to financial security," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. "Instead of encouraging students to amass even more debt, we should be exposing them to careers where they can earn a great living without worrying about unsustainable levels of college debt."

STUDY, from Page 4

ing biotech, pharma and nonprofit partners, including Gates Ventures, as well as more than a dozen clinical research sites, which are part of the global GAP-Net research network. A key to the enrollment success is the brave and committed participants who volunteered their time and energy to help advance this important research.

The collaborative nature of the project allows GAP to make the Bio-Hermes data set available to the worldwide Alzheimer's research community as a public service, with the goal of accelerating Alzheimer's biomarker research for everyone, including racially and ethnically diverse groups of people.

"Representation in clinical trials is critical to ensure that biomarkers and therapeutics will be effective for everyone living with Alzheimer's disease," said Niranjana Bose, the Managing Director of Health and Life Sciences at Gates Ventures. "Bio-Hermes' prioritization of diversity in the study protocols will

have tremendous impact nationwide. The data from the study will accelerate the search for simpler diagnostic tests and advance equity in Alzheimer's research, treatment and care.

"Bio-Hermes is catalyzing the development of Alzheimer's tests that can eventually be offered by any primary care practice," Dwyer said. "This is a big win for patients and overburdened health systems, and it has everything to do with advancing health equity for the millions of people living with this disease."

For more information about the Bio-Hermes study, visit <https://globalalzplatform.org/biohermesstudy/>.

The Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation® (GAP) was founded to speed the delivery of Alzheimer's treatments with a commitment to promoting diversity in clinical research, as well as lowering the cost and duration of clinical trials to ensure that no one is left behind. As part of its mission, GAP supports more than

100 clinical research sites worldwide through study start up and recruitment activities, promoting di-

versity in research studies, and giving attention to the citizen scientists who make research possible.



GARLAND
TEXAS MADE HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,
Services and Construction**

Review Competitive Opportunities at
<https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637

www.tiseopaving.com

Performing Concrete Street Paving
in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids

For All Public Works Projects

in the Dallas Area.

We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Equal Opportunity Employer

CBS Insurance Services, LLC

**7125 Marvin D. Love Frwy., Suite 302
Dallas, Texas 75237**

**Looking for A Career Change
Then We Need You!!**

If you're looking for full or parttime work with flexible hours, income ranging from \$800.00 to \$2,000.00 plus weekly. No Experience Needed we will license and train.

For more information call (214) 238-6855

Ask for Shun

Email: info@cbsolutionsplus.com



**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND
REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE
OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ...and more

**REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE
THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT
CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM**

www.cityofirving.org

The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Out to Pastor: Do I Really Talk in My Sleep?

For a long time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has accused me of talking in my sleep. I never believed her and just thought she was joking. At least, I thought it was a joke.

One time she accused me of that and said, "Why do you talk so much in your sleep at night?"

Thinking this was a platform for jokes, I said, "That's because, during the day, I don't have any opportunity to talk." Then I flashed her one of my signature smiles.

She didn't throw any smile back but stared at me for a few moments with that stare that went right

through my body.

It was about our third Christmas, and as we gathered around the Christmas tree, I handed her a little Christmas box all wrapped up in red paper with a nice little bow on the top.

Looking at me, she smiled and said, "Is this the watch you were talking about in your sleep the other night?"

Quite frankly, I did not know how to respond to that. It was a watch, but I did not know I had been talking about it in my sleep. So there has to be another reason for that!

One morning at breakfast as we were finishing, I said to her, "I've been thinking

that today...."

She interrupted me and said to me, "I know. You want to go and get that new computer you've been talking about in your sleep."

I have been worrying about what secrets I'm exposing at night while I'm sound asleep.

Then the other day at breakfast time, she looked at me and said, "I think that's an excellent idea you have."

Looking at her, I wondered what she was talking about, so I said, "What are you talking about?"

"You know," she said with a big smile, "that vacation you're planning for this coming summer. I think

it is a wonderful idea."

To be truthful, I had been thinking about a special vacation this coming summer, but I hadn't said anything to her about it up to this point. How in the world does she know I'm thinking about this vacation?

Not knowing what to say, I looked at her, "Where did you ever get that idea?"

With one of her chuckles, she said, "You know. That vacation you were talking about in your sleep last night. I agree with everything you said about it."

I was a little bit off at this point. I was thinking about that vacation, but I had no idea what I said in my sleep last night. I was afraid to

ask her about the details of that vacation.

I'm not sure if I need a psychologist or what! How can I keep from talking in my sleep at night? And, what if while I'm sleeping, I'm talking nonsense and get myself into deep trouble with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? Can I really believe that what I say while I'm sleeping is actually true?

Thinking about this for some time, I devised a little plan. One night I would pretend I was asleep and talk in my sleep, or at least pretend to. It took me a while to come up with some idea, but eventually, I did.

I pretended I was asleep one night, and I began talking around the middle of the night. I said, "I think I'm going to surprise my wife by buying her a brand-new car. After all, she deserves it."

I thought this might bring some closure to all of these myths about me talking in my sleep.

Finally, I went to sleep and was quite anxious to get up in the morning and hear the response from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I was surprised when she said nothing about me talking in my sleep last night.

See TALK, Page 15

America's Future launches 'Project Defend & Protect Our Children'

NORTH PORT, FLA (EINPresswire.com) -- America's Future, Inc. announced that it will stand up one of the nation's most aggressive and comprehensive initiatives to eradicate the exploitation and trafficking of children with its launch of "Project Defend & Protect Our Children" (PDPC) as part of its mission to protect the individual rights of all Americans, including children, and promote strong American families as the cornerstone to the survival of our communities and the Republic.

The announcement was made before hundreds of America's Future supporters and donors yesterday (December 6, 2022) at its 76th-anniversary celebration at The Mar-a-Lago Club-Palm Beach, hosted by Lt. General Michael T. Flynn USA, (Ret.), America's Future Board Chair.

"Children hold the promise and dreams of the future of America," said Mary O'Neill, Executive Director of America's Future. "Yet, thousands of children are inflicted with unimaginable pain and suffering in our so-

ciety today through trafficking, neglect, exploitation, and abuse that goes unabated. This must end if our nation is to survive. America's Future is initiating this Project to end this tragedy."

PDPC will be overseen by The Little Flower Advisory Board, branded as such with a single white rose representing the delicate nature and precious life of a child, and includes acclaimed experts and leaders in the professional areas of the protection and rescue of exploited and trafficked children, investigative jour-

nalism, law, policy development, and business. Members of America's Future PDPC Little Flower Advisory Board of experts include Lara Logan, Bazzel Baz, Jaco Booyens, Lynz Piper-Loomis, and Liz Crokin, among others.

As part of the Project's strategy, America's Future intends to expand its national champion-leaders

network in 2023 with a dedicated force committed to advancing the Project's goals and objectives. Moreover, America's Future PDPC will conduct a historic review of policies and laws at the local, state, and national levels to identify those that are not enforced or no longer serve the welfare and well-being of children so as to create change or establish

new policies and laws that truly benefits children, including using the legal system as necessary.

To learn more about PDPC, its Little Flower Advisory Board members, and how to get involved and support this initiative, visit <https://www.americasfuture.net/project-defend-and-protect-our-children/> for details and contact information.

We Buy Ugly Houses



- Pretty Houses
- Ugly Houses
- Divorce
- Inheritance
- Problem Tenants
- Need Repairs
- Vacant House
- Fire Damage
- Estate Sale
- Behind on payments

CALL 972-665-0170

We Buy Houses ... Fast!

Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

- Inherited plot and can't sell it?
- Bought plot years ago and your plans have changed?
- Singles space or Side by Side spaces is okay.

We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

Call Us Today!!!!!!!

972.665.0170

Things to Ponder



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Heaven's Grocery Store: I was walking down life's highway some time ago; I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store" as I got closer the door opened wide, and when I came to myself I was standing inside. I saw a host of Angels; they were everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store and all that you couldn't carry you could come back the next day for more.

First I picked some Patience, Longsuffering and Gentleness. Love and Goodness were in the next row. Further down the aisle on a shelf was plenty of Understanding, I knew that I would need it everywhere I go.

I got two boxes of God's Wisdom and two bags of Faith; I picked up some Temperance too. I just couldn't miss the Holy Spirit for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.



By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered that I needed more of God's mighty Grace. I'm glad that I didn't forget Salvation for Salvation is free and I wanted to get enough of it for you and me.

I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill; I thought I had everything to do my Master's Will. As I went up the aisle I saw The Power of Prayer; I simply had to put that in the basket for I knew that when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

Joy, Peace and Meekness were all plentiful; they were on the last shelf. Songs and Praises were hanging near so I helped myself. Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?" The Angel smiled and said, "Not a

thing, just take them everywhere you go."

I smiled at the Angel and said, "Really, how much do I owe?" The Angel smiled again and said, "My Child, Jesus Paid Your Bill A Long Time Ago!" --Author Unknown.

In Disguise: It's often difficult to understand why people give in to certain temptations. From our vantage point, their problems should be easy to handle.

We may even wonder how Adam and Eve could have been so foolish as to have thrown aside all that God had given them in the dawn of their existence. We wouldn't have fallen so easily—or would we?

Part of the problem is that Satan wears a disguise when he slithers into our

true. Oh, for the life of a husband!

Then I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. "For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:4).

I'm comfortable with knowing God hears everything I say. With that I need to discipline my tongue and keep in under control.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

lives. People do not know the devil is there even when he has them by the throat." The Bible tells us that the serpent was, "More cunning than any beast of the field." Genesis 3:1. There was no ominous hissing or rattling that warned of danger. Satan didn't ask, "Pardon me, may I have 20 minutes to destroy your life?"

Our "Public Enemy No. 1" uses the same tactics today as he did back then. He appeals to our sinful desires, 1 John 2:15-16. Satan even disguises himself as an angel of light, and his cohort appear as ministers of righteousness 2 Corinthians 11:14-15.

To resist temptation and to detect Satan's deceptions, we must live in close fellowship with Christ, 1 John 2:28.

When sin entices and allures, its lies must be ignored; the strength to gain

the victory comes when we trust God.

Hello Nice Person: Hello nice person, did anyone ever tell you, just how special you are? The light that you emit might even light a star.

Did anyone ever tell you how important you make others feel? Somebody out here is smiling about love that is so real.

Did anyone ever tell you, many times, when they were sad, your smile made them smile a bit, in fact, it

made them glad?

For the time you spend sending things and sharing whatever you find; there are no words to "Thank you." But somebody thinks that you are fine.

Did anyone ever tell you just how much they like you? Well my friend, today I am telling you, I believe that without a friend, you are missing out on a lot!

--Author Unknown.

(Editorial Note: This column originally ran in December 2012.)

Inspiring Body of Christ **IBOCX**
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.672.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCCHURCH.org
Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

TALK, from Page 14

Maybe she fell asleep and didn't hear me. So, I decided to try it the next night.

That following day there was absolutely nothing she said about me talking in my sleep.

I did this for two more nights in a row, and to my surprise, she never even acknowledged that I talked in my sleep.

I wondered if all of this talking in my sleep was just a fantasy from her point of view. I didn't know what to do next because nothing I was doing was actually working.

Then I decided to do it one more night.

The following day at breakfast, while we were eating, she stared at me, and I said, "Is something wrong?"

"I don't think that was very funny."

"What are you talking about?" I asked her.

"You know what I mean, all that talking about buying me a new car, but I know you were not asleep when you said that. You are just trying to trick me, and I'm not going to have anything to do with that."

I have learned that it is true only when I'm talking in my sleep. When I talk when I'm awake, it is not

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
MLK JR.
CELEBRATION WEEK
JANUARY 10-16, 2023

Daring to Dream:
The Radical Imagination of a New Generation

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest is open to high school seniors attending a City of Dallas high school. These scholarships are to help defray the cost of tuition, books, room and board, etc. Winners will be required to submit a short video of their scholarship acceptance and will be formally recognized at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship & Awards Gala on January 14, 2023.

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2022

Access the scholarship application at: bit.ly/MLKScholarship23

Prior scholarship winners are ineligible to apply.



NDG Book Review: 'The Wind at My Back' is a graceful double-bio

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



You don't belong here. It's a declaration that seems confusing, at first. Who says? Who's in charge here? You don't belong because... why? The answer is almost always as rude and hurtful as the statement itself, almost as unthinkable now as it was seventy years ago. But in "The Wind at My Back" by Misty Copeland with Susan Fales-Hill, those are four words that strengthen resolve.

For six years, the whole time she was a soloist at the American Ballet Theater, Misty Copeland was often the only Black dancer on the

stage. She got used to it, but never got comfortable with it. Racism is common in dance and most Black dancers in American history were encouraged to stick with "modern" performances.

That wasn't the kind of

dance Copeland had always dreamed of.

Still, she persevered. Just being with the ABT kept her in place for what the future might bring and besides, she felt like she was representing. Her presence there was encouraging to Black girls who were told they'd never be ballerinas.

And then Copeland met Raven Wilkinson.

Wilkinson was born in 1935 to educated, upper crust Black parents and had set her sights on ballet when she was five years old, having experienced the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She cried then at the emotion in the ballet, and she knew that

she wanted to dance. Her parents enrolled her in the School of American Ballet and later, she was trained by Madame Swoboda, one of the Bolshoi Theatre's premiere ballerinas.

On the cusp of realizing her dream, however, Wilkinson was told that it was "never going to happen" because she was "Colored."

And yet, she, too, persevered and she began touring with a professional troupe which took her to the American South where she fought for her dignity and she endured threats on her life. Still she danced, a pioneer, a professional, and a "first."

And when she met Copeland, she became a supportive, loving, wise, thoughtful, powerful mentor...

While it sure looks like a book and it feels like a book, "The Wind at My Back" isn't really a book. No, it's a love letter to an elder trailblazer with grace, both inside and out.

Author Misty Copeland, somewhat of a pathfinder herself, weaves the story of her career in with that of Raven Wilkinson, whose work was basically hidden in plain sight for decades. In telling Wilkinson's story, loudly and publicly, Copeland also writes of the friendship the two women

had, and how Wilkinson pushed Copeland to soar to greater heights, career-wise and in Copeland's personal life. This gives the book an intimate feel, sometimes uncomfortably so, but the sense of gratitude and absolute love for a woman who ignored the word "no" when society repeated it overpowers any squirm you might feel.

A working knowledge of ballet will enhance your enjoyment of this book, but it's not an absolute necessity. If you (or your teen!) merely love a good double-biography, "The Wind at My Back" belongs on your bookshelf.

HEALTH, from Page 3

about your situation: Explain to your peers that the best way for them to help you is to learn about your mental health issues. They could talk to a counselor, read some good books, or join a support group to better understand your situation. If your friends won't make an effort, then stay away from them because they will only make things worse.

- Distance yourself from those who give you a difficult time: Distance yourself

from those who won't make an effort to help understand what you are going through. You need to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. If you have problems or issues with a particular person, you can always ask a counselor for advice.

- You are not alone: It can be very frustrating to manage your fear-related issues when the people you know are on your case. Remember, you are not alone. There are millions of people

around the world who struggle with their fears, anxieties, and depression. The key is to find those people who can relate to you through various organizations in your area.

- Join a local mental health support group: There are many mental health awareness support groups in your area. Many hospitals, churches, and counselors in your area will be able to provide you with a list of these organizations. These groups will be aware of your situation and can give you additional advice regarding your problems.

In addition, talk to a professional who can help relieve your depression and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with suggestions and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

Stan Popovich is the author of the popular managing fear book, "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear." For more information about Stan's book and to get some more free mental health advice, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.

DEBT, from Page 6

struggling borrowers discharge their student loans.

- Providing \$9.1 billion in relief for 425,000 borrowers who have a total and permanent disability.

- Approving \$14.5 billion in borrower defense claims to nearly 1.1 million borrowers, including extending full relief to approved claims and approving new types of

claims.

- Providing \$1.26 billion in closed school discharges to 107,000 borrowers who attended the now-defunct ITT Technical Institute.

- Restoring eligibility for financial student aid to almost 7.5 million borrowers to help them complete their credential or degree.

FILM, from Page 9

picted black troops bravely fighting in the Civil War. In 2013, Steve McQueen's Oscar-winning 12 Years a Slave brought gravitas and exposure to slaves who dared to flee. In 2016, Nate Parker's The Birth of a Nation shared a sense of oppression and rebellion in the deepest ways. Dignity is a common thread in those films. Here, not as much.

Charmaine Bingwa as Dodienne, the mother of Peter's children, brings a natural essence to her role. Ben Foster's interpretation of a bounty hunter turns into a boogeyman caricature and his character's interactions with Peter are sadistic and cartoonish: "You walk the earth because I let

you. I'm your god now." Really? And there's bigoted dialogue, regarding freed slaves, which sounds way too modern: "First they take our food, then our jobs, then our land."

Smith is not a consistently strong character actor. Yes, his performance in King Richard was charming and his characterization of the Nigeran pathologist in Concussion was seamless, accent and all. But here, his stiff, brooding portrayal feels obtrusive, his creole patois doesn't gel and he wears too much makeup. It makes you wish he had been coached to blend into the scenery. Like the very fluid actor Jeffrey Wright does in every role,

and particularly in the Civil War drama Ride with the Devil.

Tech credits, from the musical score (Marcelo Zarvos) to production design (Naomi Shohan) and era-accurate costumes (Francine Jamison-Tanchuck, Glory), range from decent to great. But, in an attempt to mold itself into the shape of movies like The Great Escape or The Defiant Ones, the makers of this film have resigned the horrors of slavery to a gimmick. That's a bad choice. A miscalculation.

In select theaters now. On Apple TV+ December 9th.

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



Getting sick can increase stress, medical expenses or time off from work or school.

Stop the flu before it stops you.

Get vaccinated today!

For more information about flu shots and upcoming flu drives, please visit www.parklandhealth.org/Flu.

 **Parkland**
Care. Compassion. Community.