



North Dallas Gazette

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Dallas airport service workers join Nationwide Day of Action, demand living wages, benefits

Local airport service workers in Dallas rallied last Thursday to demand living wages and benefits for the workers who keep Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport clean, safe and running. The rally was part of a national day of action, as workers in three major hubs went on strike and others held actions in more than 15 cities across the country to demand action to ensure good, living-wage jobs with critical protections like affordable health-care and sick leave for the workers who keep our economy running and our world connected.

The airport service workers joined in a nationwide display of solidarity together with community allies demanding Congress pass Good Jobs for Good Airports Act. The representation corresponds to more than 45% of all domestic air travel.

Joined by District 6 Councilmember, Omar Narvaez, SEIU Texas leaders and other community partners, airport service workers proudly held signs that read "Respect us, protect us, pay us," as they echoed fellow workers' nationwide demands for better jobs.

"Airport workers like me provide an immensely valuable service for the flying public, and we deserve to be respected, protected, and paid a



Workers at DFW International Airport are demanding better pay and benefits as part of a day of action at three major transportation hubs. (Courtesy photo)

living wage for it. That's why we're here together. We know what's right and what's wrong, and we need action from Congress to help make things better here at DFW," said Peyton Abrams, an unaccompanied minor runner at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport organizing with SEIU.

Since the start of the pandemic, airport service workers have called on corporations to step up and stabilize air travel by ensuring living wages, affordable health care, sick days and other important protections. After their calls went unanswered, workers harnessed their strength in numbers — uniting with other workers across fast-food, re-

tail, transportation and more — to urge Congress to call out unchecked corporate power and take action to uplift the entire workforce, including Black and brown workers who often hold the lowest paid jobs in the air travel industry.

"Even through a global pandemic, climate disasters, and busy travel seasons, you get the job done. It's time we honored your sacrifice by making sure airport jobs pay a livable wage and provide benefits like health care and paid sick time," said District 6 Councilmember Omar Narvaez, as airport service workers in Dallas applauded and

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Proposed Act hurts minority media firms

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A deadly combo for heart, stroke

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Allred assumes new post in U.S. House

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People In The News ...



Brittney Griner



Hiawatha Williams

NDG Quote of the Week: "You are where you are today because you stand on somebody's shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It's the quid pro quo of life."
—Vernon Jordan

Brittney Griner

After 294 days in Russian custody, including the past several weeks in a dreaded and dangerous penal colony, WNBA star Brittney Griner is free.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with Griner's wife at the White House, where they spoke with the basketball player on the telephone.

"She's safe. She's on a plane. She is on her way home," Biden declared.

The Biden administration secured Griner's release after agreeing to a one-for-one prisoner swap that saw



the president commute the 25-year sentence of notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

The White House said it would continue efforts to bring home retired U.S.

military officer Paul Whelan, who remains in Russian custody.

Whelan has been imprisoned in Russia for nearly four years, and, recently, his family said they hadn't heard from him.

They were told he was transferred to a hospital, but the family doubted that explanation.

The deal to release Griner was consummated a week ago in the United Arab Emirates.

Biden said Griner's expected home within 24 hours.

"It's a good morning," the president exclaimed at

a news conference where Vice President Kamala Harris and Griner's wife, Cherelle, stood close.

"After months of being unjustly detained and held under intolerable circumstances, she's coming home," Biden asserted.

The president said his administration "never stopped pushing for her release."

"It took painstaking and intense negotiations for her release," Biden stated.

He thanked the UAE for helping to facilitate Griner's release and noted that's where her plane landed after finally leaving Russia.

Biden noted that the past

few months had been "hell" for Griner and her family.

He said she's in good spirits and relieved.

"She lost months of her life," Biden stated.

He said she deserves space, privacy, and time to heal in a not-so-subtle appeal to media members.

Biden added that Griner wrote him in July, not asking for special treatment.

"She said, please don't forget about me and the other American detainees," Biden said.

"We have not forgotten about Brittney and Paul Whelan."

Biden emphasized that

the one-for-one swap wasn't America's choice.

He said he wished to bring Whelan and any other wrongly detained American home.

"We have not yet secured Paul's release. But we have not given up, and we will never give up," Biden insisted.

"We'll keep negotiating for Paul's release in good faith. I urge Russia to do the same. My administration has brought home dozens of wrongly detained Americans and many who were detained before I took office," Biden continued.

Hiawatha Williams

The City of Dallas renamed Cummings Recreation Center in honor of Hiawatha Williams. Hosted by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the name unveiling ceremony took place on December 9 at the Oak Cliff community center on Cummings Street in Dallas.

Founder of Dallas-based Williams Chicken restaurants, Williams is known as much for his philanthropy as for his fried chicken. He will culminate his company's 35th anniversary with the naming of the Hiawatha Williams Recreation Center, located



blocks from where the first Williams Chicken opened at Ledbetter Street and Sunnyvale.

"I am truly humbled that the City of Dallas leaders and this community would bestow such an amazing honor on me and my fam-

ily. This recognition is for those who paved the way for me, and I hope the children and youth of this community can look at the building and be inspired to do for others as God has done for us. I am grateful," Williams said.

At the unveiling, Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold gave remarks on behalf of the city and presented Williams with a special recognition. Tributes were offered by business and community leaders, including Toni Rose, Texas House District 110; John Wiley Price, Dallas County commissioner; Taylor Toynes, executive director for Oak Cliff; and

Roland Parrish, the owner of Parrish McDonald Restaurants.

"Mr. Williams demonstrates the true meaning of a business community servant. He is laser focused on providing an education, entrepreneurship training and scholastic opportunities through his company," said Mayor Pro Tem Arnold.

Operating his business with the philosophy to serve, grow and give back to the community, Williams has done just that. With almost 50 locations, Williams remains consistent in his support of non-profits focused on the health and the well-being of children and youth.

Earlier this year, the Dallas Park and Recreation

Board approved the renaming of Cummings. It is rare, said park officials, that the department has an opportunity to rename a recreation center.

John D. Jenkins, the city's park director, said the board's action recognizes Williams' keen business insight, community service and philanthropy as a servant leader.

Quincy Moore, III

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Quincy Moore, III, Ph.D. to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) for a term set to expire on August 31, 2025.

Quincy Moore III, Ph.D. of Cypress is an Associate Professor at Prairie View A&M University and serves as the Director of the Prairie View A&M University Honors Program. He is a member of the American Society of Microbiology, National Association of African American Honors Programs, National Collegiate Honors Council, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Council on Honors Education. Moore received a



Bachelor of Science in Biology from Jackson State University, a Master's of Science in Biological Sciences from Auburn University, and a Doctor in Philosophy in Microbiology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The Council ensures health care services and facilities are available to

all Texans through health planning activities. Based on these planning activities, the SHCC makes recommendations to the Governor and the legislature through the Texas State Health Plan (TSHP). The Council also provides overall guidance in the development of the TSHP, submission of the plan to the Governor, and promoting the implementation of the plan.

Cheletta Watkins, M.D. of Forney was also appointed. Ms. Watkins is the Executive Medical Director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. Watkins received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

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Proposed Journalism Competition Preservation Act negatively impacts small minority-owned newspapers

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

In September, lawmakers in Washington rushed through major legislation that would reward massive, legacy media corporations at the expense of smaller community-focused and minority-owned newspapers. While the Journalism Competition Preservation Act (JCPA) is meant to protect publications like those in the National Newspaper Publishers Association, it would ultimately threaten our ability to inform our communities, line the pockets of massive media conglomerates and hedge funds, and lead to the proliferation of harmful misinformation.

Good intentions sometimes have negative and counterproductive consequences. JCPA Is A Blank Check for Large Corporate Media, but Leaves Small Minority-Owned News Out in the Cold.

The goal to foster quality, local journalism and journalist jobs is well-intentioned. Local news outlets provide Americans with important information about the political, economic and cultural issues

that matter to them. The news industry has reached an inflection point, and much work is still needed to secure a bright and sustainable future for minority-owned publications.

Newspaper employment has fallen by 70% in the past 15 years, and 20% of America's counties are at risk of becoming news deserts. The top 25 media chains now own a third of all U.S. newspapers. Thousands of newspapers have been acquired by hedge funds and private equity firms like Alden Global Capital or by media behemoths like Gannett, Lee Enterprises and McClatchy. For these media companies, a local newspaper is an asset for profit – not a valuable source of local information. Big media chains acquire newspapers, lay off journalists and staff, drive down wages and shutter publications forever – as they spend millions on executive salaries and stock buybacks.

Now, these same media companies and hedge funds are a step closer to receiving huge payouts – without any accountability or transparency to direct funds to local journalism and jour-

nalists. The JCPA would require tech platforms to carry and pay any eligible news publisher for “access” to content. While this may, again, seem well intentioned at first look, upon deeper inspection the law defines “access” so broadly it will require payment for simply crawling a website or sharing a link. Similarly, while a number of conglomerates are scoped into the bill, true independent or small newspapers are explicitly excluded from the legislation because the bill says that an eligible publisher must earn more than \$100,000 per year.

Many African American and other BIPOC news outlets are independently owned. Furthermore, these news outlets have developed and grown their audiences because mainstream media publications excluded the perspectives of minority voices. The Black Press built our own news outlets to support our own voices. As a result, this legislation would only further reinforce harmful racial exclusion trends, rather than actually help smaller local publications like those in the NNPA.

Similarly, recent amend-

ments to the bill requiring non-discrimination would require platforms to carry and pay for hate speech and objectionable content that could be harmful to BIPOC communities.

If passed, the JCPA would boost misinformation and extremist content. News publications from either side of the aisle that support extremist views will not only receive money, but tech platforms will be required to carry them on their services. This will make it even harder for platforms to moderate harmful and false content. We know that communities like ours will suffer most.

Congress and the Senate should reject the current draft of the JCPA and go back to the drawing board on real solutions for America's local news problems – solutions that benefit all Americans, instead of just giving handouts to the biggest media corporations in the nation.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) based in Washington, DC representing the interests of the Black Press of America since 1940.

Hinojosa applauds DNC vote to diversify future Democratic presidential primaries

Following the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Rules and Bylaws Committee voting to replace the antiquated presidential primary state order with one that more accurately reflects the Democratic electorate, Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa released the following statement:

“With South Carolina

and Nevada being the first presidential primary states – and Georgia and Michigan now being among the first states – the Democratic presidential primary will finally be more reflective of our most reliable voters: Black and Brown Americans. The order of states in a primary is crucial: they serve to respectively winnow down the field and test candidates' electoral vi-

ability – for that awesome power and responsibility to be trusted to less diverse states does not make sense for the Democratic Party of 2024 and beyond.

“We look forward to the DNC helping materialize this new primary order – and we also hope the DNC will work to eliminate caucuses, which are byzantine, overly-complicated, and create unnecessary barriers

to voters being able to choose a nominee.

“Though we're obviously disappointed Texas didn't get the nod, we as Texas Democrats are thrilled at the new proposed order of early states – and we applaud the Rules and Bylaws Committee, including Texas' own Dennis Speight, for voting in favor of this new, more diverse group of states.”

Keep up with the news

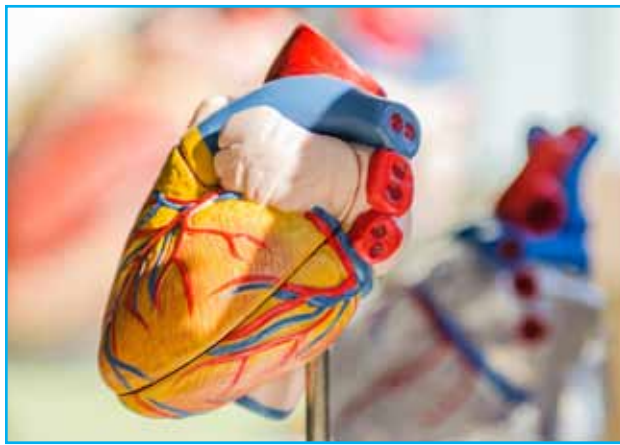
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Combo of bad cholesterol, high blood pressure may heart attack or stroke risk

(American Heart Association) High levels of lipoprotein(a), a type of “bad” cholesterol, may be associated with an 18-20% higher risk of cardiovascular disease among people who have hypertension, however, CVD risk was not higher among those without hypertension, according to new research published today in “Hypertension”, an American Heart Association journal.

“High blood pressure is a known cardiovascular disease risk factor, and lipoprotein(a) is a type of inherited ‘bad’ cholesterol that may also lead to cardiovascular disease,” said lead study author Rishi Rikhi, M.D., M.S., a cardiovascular medicine fellow at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. “We found that among people with hypertension who have never experienced a stroke or heart attack before, lipoprotein(a) seems to increase the risk of cardio-



Jesse Orrico / Unsplash

vascular disease and risk of a major cardiovascular event like heart attack or stroke.”

Hypertension is a key risk factor for cardiovascular disease. In this study, hypertension was defined as a top number of 140 mmHg or higher, a bottom number of 90 or mmHg or the use of blood pressure medication. In 2017, the Association updated its definition of hypertension to be a top number of 130 mmHg or higher or a bottom number of 80 mmHg or higher. Previous studies have indicated that when a person has hypertension

and lipid imbalance, or dyslipidemia, their cardiovascular disease risk substantially increases. According to the study’s authors, there is less information on how much of an affect lipoprotein(a) may have on cardiovascular disease risk among people with hypertension.

Lipoproteins, which are made up of protein and fat, carry cholesterol through the blood. The subtypes of lipoproteins include low-density lipoprotein (LDL), high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a). Much like LDL cholesterol, lipoprotein(a)

cholesterol may deposit and build up in the walls of blood vessels, thus increasing a person’s risk of a heart attack or stroke.

The research used health data from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) study, an ongoing community-based study in the U.S. of subclinical cardiovascular disease—meaning the disease is discovered before there are clinical signs and symptoms. MESA is a research study including nearly 7,000 adults that began in 2000 and is still following participants in six locations across the U.S.: Baltimore; Chicago; New York; Los Angeles County, California; Forsyth County, North Carolina; and St. Paul, Minnesota. At the time of enrollment in the study, all participants were free from cardiovascular disease.

The current study included 6,674 MESA participants who had lipoprotein(a) levels and blood pressure assessed and for whom there was documented car-

diovascular disease event data throughout MESA’s follow-up exams in approximately 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2017 and in telephone interviews every 9 to 12 months to gather interim data on new diagnoses, procedures, hospitalization and deaths. The study’s participants were from diverse racial and ethnic groups: 38.6% self-identified as white adults; 27.5% self-identified as African American adults; 22.1% self-identified as Hispanic adults; and 11.9% self-identified as Chinese American (n=791) adults. Additionally, more than half of the group was female (52.8%).

To evaluate the potential correlation between hypertension and lipoprotein(a) on the development of cardiovascular disease, the researchers first categorized the participants into groups based on their lipoprotein(a) levels and blood pressure measures obtained once at baseline:

• Group 1 (2,837 people):

lipoprotein(a) levels less than 50 mg/dL and no hypertension.

• Group 2 (615 people): lipoprotein(a) levels greater than or equal to 50mg/dL and no hypertension

• Group 3 (2,502 people): lipoprotein(a) levels less than 50mg/dL and hypertension

• Group 4 (720 people): lipoprotein(a) levels \geq 50mg/dL and hypertension

Participants were followed for an average of approximately 14 years and cardiovascular events, including heart attack, cardiac arrest, stroke or death from coronary artery disease, were tracked.

The study’s results include:

• A total of 809 of the participants experienced a cardiovascular disease event.

• Lipoprotein(a) levels had an effect on hypertension status that was statistically significant (meaning it was not due to chance).

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Run project kicks off 2023 footraces with flapjacks and \$50,000 fundraising goal

PLANO – With the return of the Hotcake Hustle 10K, 5K, and fun run, Run Project has announced their fundraising goals for 2023. The locally-owned and produced race series raises money for seven local charities through its nine running events in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. After raising more than \$30,000 this past year, Run Project is running toward a \$50,000 goal in 2023.

The Hotcake Hustle will be the first Run Project race of the year. Participants will be treated to a scenic course through the Plano Oak Point Nature Preserve, followed by an after-party with hotcakes, coffee, hot chocolate, and ice-cold beer. The run raises funds for the Plano-based nonprofit Animal



Leah Heteberg / Unsplash

Rescue Crusaders of Texas.

The Hotcake Hustle 10K will be the first of nine DFW running events, fundraising for seven local charities and nonprofits.

“Our runners flip over fun themes and great causes – and the Hotcake Hustle pro-

vides the perfect opportunity to enjoy both right here in Plano,” said Run Project Owner and Fort Worth native Tanna Wood. “As we look ahead to smashing our fundraising records in 2023, it’s important that local runners and walkers know

that participating in a Run Project event means you’re giving back to their local community. We hope the Hotcake Hustle is the first of many finish lines that locals and visitors will cross with us!”

The race begins at 8 a.m. in Plano’s largest park. Finishers of all distances will receive a syrup-shaped medal and a flapjack-adorned long-sleeve shirt. Alongside food and drink, the post-race party will feature music from DJ Dame, a pancake eating contest, and an awards ceremony. Event photos are free and shared on Run Project’s Facebook page.

Race beneficiary Animal Rescue Crusaders of Texas is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer animal rescue and

adoption organization. Their mission is to rescue and find homes for at-risk cats, providing them with veterinary care, foster homes, and the opportunity to find forever homes through adoption. The group actively promotes animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty to animals. They also educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering and assist local TNR (trap, neuter, return) projects for feral colonies.

The Hotcake Hustle is one of nine races held by the Run Project across North Texas. The events attract thousands of runners from across the metroplex, the state, and the nation, and raised tens of thousands of dollars for local charities.

For more information

about the Hotcake Hustle and the Run Project race series, visit www.RunProject.org and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Run Project is Texas’ and the southwest’s premier race series. Run Project represents the top 2% of running events that are locally owned and operated in the Texas area. They are part of the Racing Systems, Inc family of brands. The brand is authentically local and globally minded, creating world-class, locally-owned events that benefit causes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. For more information about Run Project, visit www.RunProject.org and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Registration is open for all distance.



Check us out on Facebook!

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



Allred named Chief Deputy Whip as part of the new House Democratic Leadership Team

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) was named Chief Deputy Whip by Assistant Speaker and incoming Democratic Whip Congresswoman Katherine Clark (MA-05).

"I am so honored to be named Chief Deputy Whip and join this historic House Democratic leadership team as we work to build on the progress we've made working with President Biden over the last two years," said Congressman Allred. "As a current member of

House leadership and former Freshman Class president, I know that in order to succeed, we have to listen to each other and work together. I look forward to doing just that and working directly with Whip Clark, and my colleagues across our Democratic Caucus to pass legislation that will lower costs, create jobs and move our country forward."

Congresswoman Clark commented that Congressman Allred has proven to be a leader in the short time that he's served in Congress and

has demonstrated an ability to bring folks together from across our Caucus to deliver results. "I am glad he is joining our historic team and will continue to bring his experience representing Texas to House Democratic leadership."

Chief Deputy Whips are responsible for helping the Whip accurately count where the Democratic Caucus stands on bills in front of the U.S. House. Chief Deputy Whips work with their colleagues to answer questions about pending

bills and issues in order to ensure that the members are knowledgeable and supportive of the legislation prior to it going to the House floor for a vote. There are 10 total members in the Democratic Caucus who are selected to serve as Chief Deputy Whips.

As part of the position, Allred will also serve on the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee which recommends Committee assignments for members of Congress and helps shape House policy.



Ike Hayman / House.gov

King's family to host the First MLK's 'Continuing the Dream' Tour

(BPRW) -- Insider Expeditions and the King family invite you to Washington, D.C. over President's Day Weekend, February 17-20, 2023. This four-day curated itinerary traverses the capitol's landmarks that memorialize MLK Jr's vision, with MLK's legacy, his son, Martin Luther King III, his wife Arndrea and their daughter Yolanda. Participants will get to know the King family and experience Washington, D.C. from a unique, cultural lens.

Martin Luther King III said "I am thrilled to share our family's legacy with those coming to Washington next February. I am looking forward to visiting many of the sites that have shaped our nation's capital as a cultural and intellectual capital for African Americans."

The itinerary will incorporate some of the most sought-after historical stops in D.C. like the National Museum of African American History & Culture, the National Mall where the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial statue stands, the location of the "I Have a Dream Speech", and the restored Martin Luther King Jr. Library. The tour will also explore the complex relationship



Courtesy photo

that Dr. King and other leaders had with Washington. Guests will get a taste of why D.C. is nicknamed "Chocolate City". From its famous restaurants, like Ben's Chili Bowl, to the local "Go-Go" music, and the expressive artwork that you can find scattered around the city, D.C. has historically been heavily influenced by Black culture. The tour includes a visit to "Black Broadway" (now known as U-Street), where we will meet local historians and residents to hear the exciting stories of yesteryear told by the older generation.

We will delve into older black neighborhoods that were created decades ago to strengthen community and morale and feel the prideful school spirit of Howard University emanating from campus. Dr. King's work

in D.C., and the impact that Black People have had on the nation's capital, is a beautiful and important story that is spotlighted on this tour. A facilitated discussion will be held at the end of the tour, encouraging dialogue, connection and action to close out.

Included in the tour, travelers will enjoy group meals at acclaimed Black-owned restaurants, private luxury group transfers to each site, in-depth dialogue with professional guides and historians and a meet and greet with our hosts, the King Family. Guests will have two accommodation options to select from for their stay. Our host hotel is the beautiful Salamander Hotel, owned by African American entrepreneur, Sheila Crump Johnson and located just off the vibrant southwest

waterfront of D.C., The second hotel is the Hilton Washington DC on the National Mall.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s incredible life and legacy has inspired many, including me, to be the best I can be. His work is emblematic of the efforts

for change that only happen in Washington, DC. I'm proud that visitors can come to Washington, DC to gain a better understanding of Black history, which is American history, and embrace different cultures through travel experiences," said Elliott L. Fergus-

son, II, president and CEO of Destination DC, the official destination marketing organization for the nation's capital.

To book or learn more, visit <https://www.MLK-DC2023.com> or email info@insiderexpeditions.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, January 26, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Turney W. Leonard Governance
and Training Center
Conference Area
5151 Samuell Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75228

Annual Report of Performance on Texas Academic Performance
Report for 2022-2023

and the 2022-2023 Evaluation of the Effectiveness of
Accelerated Instruction

The Dallas Independent School District will hold a public hearing to share information with the community regarding the educational performance of the district along with the effectiveness of accelerated instruction. The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 26, 2023, Conference Area, 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, January 23, through Wednesday, January 25, at 5 p.m.

Happy Holidays, One and All!



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

The most festive time of the year is fast approaching, and I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a safe and joyous holiday with family and friends. As we head toward the winter break, I'd like to express my gratitude to all our teachers and staff for giving their best to our students every day. Thanks to the students for their hard work and thank you to the parents for encouraging your children.

I especially want to single out the hard-working teachers in District 6 who have been chosen by their peers as Campus Teachers of the Year. They are:

- Jerquila Slaughter, *Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy*
- Shelby Thomas, *Birdie, Alexander Elementary*



Courtesy photo

tary

- Stephanie Stephens, *John W. Carpenter Elementary*

- Doveisha Wright, *Jimmie Tyler Brashear Elementary*

- Raymond Lewis Robles, *Barbara Jordan Elementary*

- Alicia Armstrong, *Ronald E. McNair Elementary*

- Paul Holmes, *Otto Fridia Elementary*

- Isabel Bridges, *Clinton P. Russell Elementary*

- Claudia Ramirez, *Leslie A. Stemmons Elementary*

- Zaira Rodriguez, *T.G. Terry Elementary*

- Adrienne Hearn, *Thomas Tolbert Elementary*

- Rena Walker, *Adelle Turner Elementary*

- Owetta Carlisle, *Mark Twain Elementary*

- Ebony Garrett, *Umphrey Lee Elementary*

- Bridget Robinson, *Daniel Webster Elementary*

- Dibreika Miller, *Martin Weiss Elementary*

- James Jackson, *Barbara Manns Middle School DAEP*

- Rebekah Jean, *D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School*

- Constance Adamu, *David W. Carter High School*

- Estephania Amaro, *Justin F. Kimball High School*

- Nathaniel Mallery, *Boude Storey Middle School*

- Shalexis Willis, *T.W. Browne Middle School*

- Jarrod Williams, *Zan Wesley Holmes Middle School*

Two pillars honored: Otto M. Fridia and Emma Rodgers

It was a joy for me to be a part of the combined renaming ceremony for Otto M. Fridia Elementary and the dedication of the school's library to Emma Rodgers on Saturday, Dec. 3. Both of these outstanding individuals made their mark on Dallas ISD – Mr. Fridia as a longtime educator and the first Black person to act as superintendent of the district, and Mrs. Rodgers as a well-known community activist and advocate for literacy. District staff, students, and the community showed up to honor them both and to get a look at the updated library which will be an ongoing tribute to Mrs. Rodgers.

Meals During the Holidays

Dallas ISD will be closed to students during the winter break from Thursday, Dec. 22, through Friday, Jan. 6. However, some schools will offer free meals to children younger than 18 and students up to 21 years of age with disabilities. To learn more about the dates and the list of participating schools, visit www.dallasisd.org/FCNS.

Discover your Child's Best Fit, Virtually

If you want to enroll your child in a specialty school but weren't able to attend the district's Discover Dallas ISD event last month, it's not too late. On Dec. 3, you can attend a virtual Discover event to learn about the specialty schools and programs available for your child. To attend, you must register online at dallasisd.org/choosedallasisd. The deadline to apply for choice schools and specialty programs is Jan. 31, 2023.

Dallas College School of Health Sciences receives \$1 million in federal funding for Pathway to Nursing Equity Project

(Collin College) The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded Dallas College a \$1 million grant to increase the number of under-represented student nurses who can provide high-quality, culturally sensitive care in underserved communities. The federal grant supports pipeline for careers in nursing and is aimed at diversifying the workforce.

Under a Nurse Education, Practice Quality and Retention grant, HRSA funding over the next three years will help Dallas College boost enrollment and attract more nursing students. The federal grant will fund scholarships for underrepresented students and cover recruitment efforts targeted to potential students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and



Courtesy photo

People of Color (BIPOC). The nursing program with the help of this funding will also seek to boost BIPOC representation among teaching staff.

The need for nurses is at an all-time high with the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting 194,500 average annual openings for nurses over the next 10 years, and employment opportunities are projected to grow 9% during that time. Dallas County, which is federally designated as a

Medically Underserved Area, has an acute need for highly skilled nurses. In the county, many residents face numerous barriers to health care, including not having health insurance, lack of transportation, and a shortage of medical information translated into other languages.

To advance health equity and support for underserved populations, Dallas College aims to disburse about 70 scholarships to students in its associate's

nursing degree program and in the new nursing bachelor's degree that Dallas College expects to offer next year. This, pending the degree's approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

By increasing the number of students who will learn the fundamentals of working in a hospital setting as integral members of allied health teams, Dallas College will be training the next generation of nurses with expanded skills to reduce health disparities.

Registered nurses as well as nursing assistants trained by Dallas College often go on to work at regional and local health care facilities, like Parkland Hospital, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White, and in other health care settings.

Tetsuya Umebayashi,

vice provost for the School of Health Sciences at Dallas College, explained, the grant will provide a significant opportunity to support and encourage disadvantaged and underserved students toward nursing education completion. "Dallas College is committed to diversifying the nursing workforce by empowering low-income and underserved students."

According to U.S. Census data, the overall population in Dallas County is 41.4% Hispanic or Latino and 23.8% Black or African American, yet only 12.9% of the nursing workforce is Hispanic or Latino and only 18.6% are Black or African American.

"Currently, the nursing workforce in Dallas County is not fully reflective of a diverse population and falls short in several key demo-

graphic areas," Dr. Umebayashi added. "Through our programs, Dallas College is creating a pathway to equity in nursing, to the ultimate benefit of the patient."

As enrollment increases in Dallas College nursing programs, the School is aiming to increase the retention and completion rates of diverse and disadvantaged students by also creating peer support groups that offer mentoring for current and incoming students who will be matched to upper-level students. Additional information on the social determinants of health and health disparities will also be integrated into the curriculum as a result of this funding.

"Our commitment to diversity – combined with

See NURSING Page 7

Stroll through a light display and roll into Irving's Polar Express for the holidays

All aboard! Join the City of Irving for the annual Holidays at Heritage events happening now through December 17. The events will kick off in the Irving Heritage District with a nighttime Irving Polar Express-themed parade on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

After the lighted parade, head around the corner to Heritage Park, 217 S. Main St., to enjoy a festive celebration at 7 pm featuring the lighting of the city's iconic tree. The event will include a drone show, live



Courtesy photo

reindeer, food vendors, holiday-themed crafts, and a live musical performance

by Midnight Soul Band.

Then, stroll through a holiday light display at one

of the jewels of Irving's Heritage District - Centennial Park. Walk along light-

ed walkways and observe fences, bridges and trees, all aglow.

The park is decorated with 60,000 lights, and paths are lighted to keep them visible for visitors after dark. The public can enjoy the display from dusk until 10 pm now through Dec. 27, 2022. Centennial Park is located at 444 W. Second Street in Irving.

Attendees can take photos at a variety of lighted holiday props and get a selfie with Santa Clause at Heritage Park.

This holiday tradition is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visitors can ask the on-duty city staff any questions they might have about the decorations.

Bike riding is not permitted through the display. Portable restrooms are available onsite. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 721-2501.

Parking is free. For the park map and parade route, visit IrvingEvents.org.

HEART, from Page 2

• When compared to Group 1 (low lipoprotein(a) levels and no hypertension), Group 2 (higher lipoprotein(a) levels and no hypertension) did not have an increased risk for cardiovascular disease events.

• Less than 10% of Group 1 (7.7%) and Group 2 (participants 8%) had cardiovascular disease events.

• Participants in Groups 3 and 4, all of whom had hypertension, demonstrated a statistically significant increase in risk for cardiovascular disease events

when compared to those in Group 1.

• Approximately 16.2% of the people in Group 3 (lower lipoprotein(a) levels and hypertension) had cardiovascular disease events, and 18.8% of the participants in Group 4 (higher lipoprotein(a) levels and hypertension) experienced cardiovascular disease events.

"We found that the overwhelming amount of cardiovascular risk in this diverse population appears to be due to hy-

pertension," Rikhi said. "Additionally, individuals with hypertension had even higher cardiovascular risk when lipoprotein(a) was elevated. The fact that lipoprotein(a) appears to modify the relationship between hypertension and cardiovascular disease is interesting, and suggests important interactions or relationships for hypertension, lipoprotein(a) and cardiovascular disease, and more research is needed."

Everyone can improve their cardiovascular health by following the American Heart Association's Life's

Essential 8: eating healthy food, being physically active, not smoking, getting enough sleep, maintaining a healthy weight, and controlling cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels. Cardiovascular disease claims more lives each year in the U.S. than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined, according to the American Heart Association.

Co-authors are Harpreet S. Bhatia, M.D.; Christopher Schaich, Ph.D.; Nicklaus Ashburn, M.D., M.S.; David Herrington,

M.D., M.P.H.; Michael Y. Tsai, Ph.D.; Erin D. Michos, M.D., M.H.S.; Parag Chevli, M.B.B.S., M.S.; Sotirios Tsimikas, M.D.; and Michael D. Shapiro, D.O., M.C.R. Authors' disclosures are listed in the manuscript.

The study was funded through grants from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, both of which are divisions of the National Institutes of Health.

The American Heart Association is a relent-

less force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources.

The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, Twitter or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

NURSING, from Page 6

investments in real-world pathways such as this – deepens our impact in the community," said Dallas College Chancellor Justin Lonon. "Dallas College is committed to training and educating a population that represents the community we serve. With this grant, our School of Health Sciences is poised to help deliver better health care to the citizens of Dallas County and beyond."

Formerly the Dallas

County Community College District, the school was founded in 1965, and consists of seven campuses: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland.

Dallas College offers online learning and serves more than 125,000 credit and continuing education students during the fall and spring semesters. Dallas College also offers dual credit for students in

partner high schools and early college high schools throughout Dallas County.

Students benefit from partnerships with local business leaders, school districts and four-year universities, and Dallas College offers associate degree and career/technical certificate programs in more than 100 areas of study, as well as a bachelor's degree in education. Based on annual enrollment, it is the largest community college in Texas.



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How a racist, segregationist pushed Georgia into a history of runoff elections

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

With Georgia having experienced its second runoff in two years to determine which party represents the state in the U.S. Senate, one irony about the election isn't lost.

The two candidates, Incumbent Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker are both Black.

What makes that ironic is that Georgia's runoff elections began in 1963 when a segregationist legislator named Denmark Groover earnestly fought to disrupt the power of the Black vote and ensure that a white person would prevail in any closely fought campaign. According to Calif. Institute of Technology Professor and Historian Morgan Kousser, when the race is racially polarized, the runoff requirement makes it more difficult for any minority group to carry enough votes to elect its candidate of choice. Georgia races continue to be racially polarized.

Having served as a state representative in the early 1950s, Groover fell in



Street demonstrators during the March on Washington, 1963. This was the same year Groover proposed alterations to Georgia's election codes to counteract the Black vote. (Unseen Histories / Unsplash)

defeat for election to the House in 1958.

According to the National Park Service (NPS) Archives, the Macon politician blamed his loss on the "Negro bloc voting."

He carried the white vote, but his opponent triumphed by garnering Black ballots by a five-to-one margin.

"Groover soon devised a way to challenge growing Black political strength," NPS researchers wrote.

Elected to the House again in 1962, he led the

fight to enact a majority vote and runoff rule for all county and state contests in both primary and general elections.

"Until 1963, plurality voting was widely used in Georgia county elections, and the decision on whether to have a majority or plurality was left to the option of each local party executive committee throughout the state," researchers noted.

Why did Groover propose this significant alteration in January 1963?

Two decades after introducing the majority vote plan, he candidly admitted that in the 1950s and 1960s, "I was a segregationist. I was a county unit man. But if you want to establish if I was racially prejudiced, I was. If you want to establish that some of my political activity was racially motivated, it was."

At the time of the legislative debate in February 1963, it was extensively reported in the state's newspapers that Groover and his

allies saw the measure "as a means of circumventing what is called the Negro bloc vote."

NPS said Groover later confirmed that he used the phrase "bloc voting" as a racist euphemism for Negro voting and that he specifically aimed his proposal at Black leaders whom he believed secretly collaborated with white politicians to affect the outcome of elections.

Of Groover, who died in 2001, the New Georgia Encyclopedia states that he was closely involved in several notorious events that still impact state politics.

For example, in 1956, Groover was the house floor leader for Governor Marvin Griffin and helped pass the bill that changed the state flag to include the Confederate battle emblem.

"That change in the flag, Groover acknowledged later, was a defiant response to federal court decisions striking down racially segregated schools," the encyclopedia stated.

As segregation died out in Georgia, the Confederate flag design became a sore point with Black voters and business leaders.

Governor Zell Miller tried to change the state flag in the early 1990s but could not overcome massive resistance among conservative white lawmakers.

When Governor Roy Barnes made another attempt to change the flag in 2001, he enlisted the support of Groover, who was seventy-eight years old and dying of heart problems, encyclopedia researchers continued.

When legislators introduced a bill to change the flag design, Groover made a dramatic appearance before the House Rules Committee to urge adoption.

"It has become the most divisive issue on the political spectrum and needs to be put to rest," he said.

"It would bring to an end this cauldron of discord that adversely affects our lives and the future of our children and grandchildren."

The bill passed, and the flag design was changed, although the resulting controversy would mean Barnes's defeat when he ran again for governor in 2002.

Groover died less than three months after that last dramatic political appearance in support of a new state flag, on April 18, 2001.

Film Review: 'Avatar: the Way of Water'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's more than you can possibly imagine. A fantasy world so vivid and real, it commands your full attention for 3h 12m. And when it's done, you'll still want to linger in this heightened state of make believe.

You'd think after creating "The Terminator," "Aliens," "Titanic" and the ground-breaking "Avatar," that writer/director James Cameron would have put all his creative cards on the table. But no, he's just getting started. He's so juiced up, he's concocted premises and story lines for Avatars 3, 4, and 5. For now, he's completed the sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," the most astounding film of



the year.

Credit Cameron, his co writing team Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, and fellow producers for thinking out of the box in the most technologically advanced and spiritual ways. But the real showstoppers are a complex stereoscopic 3D multi-camera system (cinematographer Russell Carpenter), an AI process that captures

actors' movements, applies algorithms, and then layers of animation that bring the 3D-CG characters to life.

A crack visual effects team (Joe Letteri and Richard Baneham) expands an audience's conceptions of what tech wizardry can be. Evocative production design creates a netherworld (Dylan Cole and Ben Procter); wondrous colors dazzle

(art directors Robert Bavin and crew); exotic costumes mesmerize (Deborah L. Scott). The stunning visuals mean you'll have to pry your eyeballs off the screen before leaving the theater.

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is an ex-paraplegic Marine, morphed into a blue being, a Na'vi. He is now the head of the Omatikaya clan on the moon Pandora. He's coupled with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), and they parent their kids, Neteyam (Jamie Flatters), Lo'ak (Britain Dalton), Tuk (Trinity Jolli Bliss) and their adopted teenage daughter, Kiri (Sigourney Weaver), who feels out of place: "Why am I different?"

All is well until human invaders, (the Sky People),

led by the monstrous Re-com Col. Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), target him and his moon's resources.

Miles heads an elite team of soldiers who've been resurrected as recombinants (recoms). This menacing force infiltrates Pandora, threatens and chases Sully's family and forces them to flee. Sully: "I just want to keep my family safe." The Sullys seek refuge in the ocean-bound territories of the Metkayina clan. As they navigate the ways of the water, their presence arouses their new hosts' suspicions. Danger shadows them.

The very engaging plot line, dotted with the perils of Sully's family, is never less than compelling or easy enough to follow—even

with its plethora of characters and odd animals. If you miss a detail, it doesn't matter; you'll get the gist.

The only story device that becomes a nuisance is the children's odd propensity to ignore their parent's warnings and get themselves in trouble. It's an overused ploy that makes you wish the writers had found other ways to put the family in jeopardy so someone could ride to an exhilarating rescue.

The adventure never stops. It's measured out rhythmically, rarely giving your heart beat a chance to slow down. The colors, creatures, settings, costumes, props, weapons and fights bombard you. Dur-

See AVATAR, Page 12

Broadway Dallas announces availability for upcoming production of 'Tootsie'

Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America announced today that Tootsie, the hilarious Tony Award-winning musical, is coming to Dallas for a limited two-week engagement from April 18-30, 2023 at the Winspear Opera House as part of the Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas. Tickets are on sale now.

Tickets for Tootsie are available at BroadwayDallas.org or by calling 800-982-2787. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing Groups@BroadwayDallas.org.

Call it "musical comedy heaven" (Rolling Stone). Call it "the most uproarious new musical in years!" (The Hollywood Reporter). Call it Tootsie! This laugh-out-loud love letter to the theater tells the story of Michael Dorsey, a talented but difficult actor who struggles to find work until one show-stopping act



Courtesy photo

of desperation lands him the role of a lifetime. Featuring a hilarious Tony®-winning book by Robert Horn and an outrageously clever score by 2018 Tony-winner David Yazbek (The Band's Visit, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels), this New York Times Critic's Pick is "a joyful delight" (The Washington Post) that's "so packed with punchlines,

it should be called a jokebox musical!" (Bloomberg). "In these turbulent times, when the world seems out of balance, we need a place to let the good times roll," raves Rolling Stone. "Tootsie is it!"

The creative team for Tootsie includes director Dave Solomon (Broadway associate director), Broad-

way choreography by Denis Jones, associate choreographer Chip Abbott. The design team for Tootsie includes original scenic designer David Rockwell, tour scenic designer Christine Peters, costume designer William Ivey Long, associate costume designer Christopher Vergara, lighting designer Donald Holder, associate lighting designers Vivien Leone & Coby Chasman-Beck and assistant lighting designer Colleen Doherty, sound designer Brian Ronan, associate sound designer Cody Spencer, hair and wig design by Paul Huntley, assistant hair

and wig designer Loryn Pretorius, make-up design by Angelina Avallone. Casting is by Binder Casting, Chad Murnane CSA. Supervising Music Supervisor Andrea Grody, Music Supervision by Dean Sharenow, vocal & incidental arrangements by Andrea Grody, dance arrangements by David Chase, orchestrations by Simon Hale, and music coordination by Talitha Fehr.

Tootsie is based on the story by Don McGuire and Larry Gelbart and the Columbia Pictures Motion Picture produced by Punch Productions and starring Dustin Hoffman.

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Dallas Black Dance Academy launches Adopt-a-School Dance Program: an intense dance curriculum to support schools

The exciting and new Adopt-A-School Dance Program will provide an intense dance curriculum to support middle and high schools with existing dance programs. Launched Nov. 1, 2022, the program will continue through May 31, 2023, providing dance instructors to two schools in the Dallas Independent School District.

Funding for the DBDA's new expanded arts education initiative is provided by the Genesis Inspiration Foundation.

"Our Adopt-A-School Dance Program offers free training to help elevate students by enriching their in-school dance class instruction. Dallas Black Dance Theatre partners with the classroom dance teachers to provide opportunities to develop skills for careers in dance," explained Dallas Black Academy Director Katricia Eaglin. "This program allows us to continue to connect with our community as well as recruit students to our academy who are seriously interested in dance. We are excited to announce this year's program will support W.E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy of Fine Arts and North Dallas High School."

"Through the support of Genesis retailers nationwide, the Genesis Inspiration Foundation is proud to support the Dallas Black Dance Academy and this exciting initiative that will bring dance to more students," said John Guastaferrero, the foundation's Executive Director.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, has a history of producing dance professionals for over 49 years. The academy trained the first student in the nation to receive the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. Four of its students have received full scholarships and graduated from the prestigious The



DBDT.com

Juilliard School. Numerous DBDT Alumni have received full scholarships in dance to prestigious universities across the nation.

For more information on how your school can join the Dallas Black Dance Academy's Adopt-A-School Dance program, email academy@dbdt.com. For more details on Dallas Black Dance Academy, visit www.dbdt.com/academy

The 2022-2023 Legacy Sponsor is Harold Simmons Foundation.

The 2022-2023 Catalyst Sponsors include The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and Anonymous.

2022 - 2023 | DBDT Season Sponsors include City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, NBC 5, The Dallas Morning News, Texas Metro News, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, Shubert Foundation, Inc., DART, TACA, Dallas Weekly, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

2022- 2023 | DBDT Season Supporters include The Rea Charitable Trust,

Lexus, fyi50+, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, Trendy Africa, and Arts+Culture.

About Dallas Black Dance Academy: The official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates 49 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. It was founded by Ann Williams. The academy trained the first student in the nation to receive the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. Students participate weekly in 36 dance classes, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African on-site at DBDT's studios. Classes are held at Dallas Black Dance Theatre's studios and are open to students ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: Allegro Performing Ensemble, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble. For details on Dallas Black Dance Academy visit www.dbdt.com/academy.

For more details about Dallas Black Dance Theatre visit www.DBDT.com.

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The PepsiCo Foundation and Doritos SOLID BLACK extend deadline for applications for Black Changemakers, a new philanthropic program that shines a spotlight on Black community leaders and nonprofits

The PepsiCo Foundation and Doritos SOLID BLACK are teaming up to uplift Black community leaders, ensuring bold voices that often go unheard are being amplified and given the opportunity to create positive change within their communities.

The Foundation has committed to awarding a \$50,000 grant to each selected Black Changemaker's nonprofit organization to celebrate and support the bold impact of their efforts. Additionally, the Foundation will provide leadership development training in partnership with Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and Doritos SOLID BLACK will share their platform with the game changing nonprofit leaders.

In 2022, a similar program from Doritos SOL-

ID BLACK amplified the voices of four Black Changemakers who are making waves in their communities.

- Miss Diddy: A Compton, California native and entertainment marketer, has prioritized impact as a part of her success story. This includes providing every senior citizen home in Compton with masks throughout the pandemic, providing Christmas gifts to 5,000 families, and helping connect over 2,000 families with access to nutritious meals. With the support of the Black Changemakers program, she extended her ongoing focus on community impact supporting the SoLa I CAN Foundation's mission to strengthen community development, access to education, and economic opportunity for youth in South Los Ange-

les.

- DJ Mr. Rogers: DJ Mr. Rogers is the co-founder of the Relief Gang, a nonprofit designed to aid Houstonians affected by Hurricane Harvey which over the last five years has grown into a regional effort extending to other parts of Texas and Louisiana. As a Black Changemaker program participant, he was able to expand his efforts and make an even bolder impact on his community.

- Eric Hart Jr.: Originally from Georgia and now a photographer in New York City, Eric Hart Jr. is focused on amplifying the power of Blackness and queerness through the art of photography. With the support of the Black Changemakers program, Eric was able to support The Gordon Parks Foundation which permanently preserves the work

of Gordon Parks by making it available to the public through exhibitions, books, and electronic media and supports artistic and educational activities.

- PikaChulita: PikaChulita, from Memphis, Tennessee, is part of Black Girl Gamers, a Twitch channel centered around creating safe, supportive, and fun spaces for marginalized individuals – especially those who are Black, Brown, or LGBTQIA+. PikaChulita is focused on working with

organizations that give the next generation a head start in tech, including CodeCrew who she supported through the 2022 class.

Individuals dedicated to making bold, positive impacts in their own communities are encouraged to apply. Applications are open today through December 16.

Established in 1962, the PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, invests in the essential

elements of a sustainable food system with a mission to support thriving communities.

Doritos is one of many Frito-Lay North America brands – the \$19 billion convenient foods division of PepsiCo, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEP), which is headquartered in Purchase, NY. Learn more about Frito-Lay at the corporate website, <http://www.fritolay.com/>, and on Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/fritolay>.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Sara Basurto, s.basurto@trileaf.com, [2550 South IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388].

Experian and Center for Financial Advancement launch HBCU Financial Literacy Program

ATLANTA (BPRW) -- Almost half of all college students say money management is a bigger challenge than any other they may face, according to the U.S. Department of Education. To empower students as they embark on their higher education journeys, leading information services company Experian and HomeFree-USA's Center for Financial Advancement® (CFA) have launched the CFA Credit Academy.

The CFA Credit Academy will train student credit ambassadors to promote credit health and knowledge.



Oxana Melis / Unsplash

More than 250 scholars from 14 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will learn and train to share financial literacy, credit education and leadership basics. "Experian is a committed innovative partner. Understanding and mastering credit is of

significant importance to the CFA Scholars. The CFA Credit Academy provides the training, tools, coaching and mentoring in a clear relevant manner that will enable the scholars to achieve their personal goals," said Gwen Garnett, HomeFree-USA Center for Financial Advancement® Executive Director.

The HomeFree-USA 2022 Money4Life Leadership Conference kicked off CFA's eight-month program and included an orientation of the credit education program with Experian's credit education experts.

Through their efforts, students will gain an understanding of credit and its importance, so they can become knowledge ambassadors for their peers, family and their communities. In addition to live sessions and self-paced content, the CFA Credit Academy culminates with a hackathon competition in April, challenging all students to form teams of four at participating HBCUs to build the next best credit education program for their peers. The winning team will earn a \$40,000 scholarship, sponsored by Experian.

"This program normalizes and modernizes the conversation about credit and overall financial health," explained Raudy Perez, Experian North America's senior director for diversity, equity and inclusion partnerships. "Through our partnership with the CFA, we want to ensure these students are visible within the credit ecosystem for more equitable lending when they're ready. Access to fair and affordable credit can help them, and all consumers, get a college degree, buy a car or a home, start a business, and ultimately build wealth and achieve greater financial success."

Expect this precious gem to develop into a \$3bn goldmine. That estimate, unlike the film, will be well within everyone's imagination. In theaters now, beginning December 16th.

AVATAR, from Page 8

ing interludes, the family's bonding with plants and animals becomes as amazing as the hardcore action scenes. That combination of kinetic energy and transcendental moments makes this film soar.

You want the Sullys to find peace. You fully understand that any bliss may come at a price for them and their protectors. Minutes, then hours roll by, and when the film ends, you only wish for more.

That you could binge-watch Avatar for an entire weekend. And with the future arrivals of chapters 3, 4 and 5, that will be a welcomed reality in years to come.

Hard to fathom what the cast did to make their characters' movements so fluid. Filming under water brings them grace, but even their land scenes make them look like dancer/warriors. All, including Kate Winslet and Cliff Curtis (Once Were Warriors) as the heads of the Metkayinas, are incredible. However, Saldña's very primal interpretation of a mother/warrior is a standout performance from a group of actors who swing for the rafters with every emotion ... fear, anger, jealousy, love, sadness, grief, relief, triumph...

Cameron and his team have taken the art of film and fantasy to a new level. Nothing you've screened previously—not even the first Avatar—can prepare you for the images you will see, the journey you'll join and the feelings that will envelope you. It's the kind of experience that makes young audiences crave repeat viewings. And with no other act/adv/fan films on the horizon, theaters will be packed with Na'vi devotees for months to come.

Expect this precious gem to develop into a \$3bn goldmine. That estimate, unlike the film, will be well within everyone's imagination.

In theaters now, beginning December 16th.

Expect this precious gem to develop into a \$3bn goldmine. That estimate, unlike the film, will be well within everyone's imagination.

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



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Bank of America to offer financial counseling in 17 U.S. markets

CHARLOTTE -- Bank of America and Operation HOPE announced today they will offer free financial counseling in 180 financial centers in 17 U.S. markets starting in 2023. The Operation HOPE program, known as HOPE Inside™, offers in-person financial health coaching sessions to help individuals build savings, improve FICO (credit) scores, and decrease debt.

The program is proven to help individuals build savings, reduce debt and improve their credit score. Introduced initially in four financial centers in Atlanta and Los Angeles, the program will now expand to additional centers in those markets along with centers in Baltimore, Boston and Northern Massachusetts, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Chi-

cago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Francisco and Washington D.C. Bank of America plans to add more markets to the HOPE Inside program in the future as well.

"We know that these are challenging times, as both communities and consumers are dealing with economic stress and potential financial instability," said Aron Levine, President of Preferred Banking at Bank of America. "Good financial health is the foundation for strong, sustainable communities, and our partnership with HOPE Inside helps us deliver on our commitment to ensuring more young people, adults and communities have access to the tools and education to build

a solid financial future."

Through the partnership, Bank of America financial center employees refer clients to a professional Operation HOPE financial well-being coach to provide comprehensive monthly credit and money management counseling at no cost. Counseling will be available in both English and Spanish at most locations.

The program has shown significant results. As of the second quarter of 2022, HOPE Inside has provided more than 2,700 counseling services based on Bank of America referrals. The program has also delivered more than 300 financial education workshops. On average, participating clients improved their FICO scores by 21 points, increased their yearly savings by \$4,313

and reduced their annual debt by \$837.

"Bank of America and HOPE Inside have already had a real, measurable impact on the financial health of so many individuals," said John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Operation HOPE, Inc. "The expansion of HOPE Inside is proof that empowering individuals with the knowledge and resources to navigate financial planning can have significant positive results for individuals, families, and communities."

Christine Channels, head of Community Banking and Consumer Governance at Bank of America, adds, "HOPE Inside is just one part of Bank of America's Community Banking approach, which focuses on helping individuals, fami-

lies and small businesses begin successful financial journeys with products, services and initiatives that ultimately increase their economic resilience."

Bank of America also offers financial education online through Better Money Habits, a proprietary site that provides tools and content on topics including credit building; budgeting; savings and money management; and home buying.

Since 1992, Operation HOPE has been moving America from civil rights to "silver rights" with the mission of making free enterprise and capitalism work for the underserved—disrupting poverty for millions of low- and moderate-income youth and adults across the nation. Through its community uplift model,

HOPE Inside, which received the 2016 Innovator of the Year recognition by *American Banker* magazine.

Operation HOPE has served more than 4 million individuals and directed more than \$3.2 billion in economic activity into disenfranchised communities—turning check-cashing customers into banking customers, renters into homeowners, small business dreamers into small business owners, minimum wage workers into living wage consumers, and uncertain disaster victims into financially empowered disaster survivors.

For more information: OperationHOPE.org. Follow the HOPE conversation on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

AIRPORT, from Page 1

cheered. "We're here today to demand something different. We're here to reject the status quo. Congress needs to make sure public dollars support the public good. And they need to help ensure that every job within airports is a good job that supports families and the global economy by passing the Good Jobs for Good Airports Act."

In addition, starting at midnight and continuing throughout the day, airport service workers went on strike in three major hubs. In Boston, Logan Airport workers struck their employer, Swissport USA, in protest against wage theft and unfair labor practices. Meanwhile in Chicago, workers struck against unfair labor practices and to demand safe working conditions from their employer Swissport Cargo, and in Newark, they struck to protest unfair labor practices and not being paid for all hours worked by their employer, Swissport Cargo. Workers proudly proclaimed their demands, as they chanted "when we

fight, we win!" in an inspiring display of worker power at three major airport hubs.

Across all 15 airports—including some of the nation's largest in Charlotte, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and beyond—workers, allies and elected officials demanded members of Congress take action to pass the Good Jobs for Good Airports Act. The legislation would put in place national wage and benefits standards for airport service workers, ensuring every airport service job lifts up working families and their communities.

Fresh off of his reelection as Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer joined the chorus of support for the Good Jobs for Good Airports Act. In a rousing speech about the importance of airport service workers, Schumer declared, "If major airports want access to billions in federal funds we want to see the workers make a living wage, first and foremost. Every single day airport workers make it possible for millions of Americans to travel by air.

Securing this legislation in our FAA legislation is going to be one of the top priori-

ties in the Democratic Senate. So stand with us, and fight until we win."



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Do I Need to File a Missing Persons Report?

By James L. Snyder

Every week comes and goes, and some go faster than others. Such was last week.

It started pretty well, but then everything went downhill.

I had my semiannual doctor's visit. After all, he has kids that need to go to college. After his complete examination of me, he said, "You're doing great."

I asked him to repeat that several times, because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was there, and I wanted her to hear it from someone other than me.. I wanted him to put it in writing and sign it, but he wasn't going to do that. So I accepted his oral pronouncement because it was

in front of my wife.

My wife put together the plan for the day so that we could accomplish many things in one day. So the doctor's visit was first.

Then we had to go to the police station to file a report.

My bank informed me that somebody had counterfeited one of my checks and even my signature for \$1800. How they counterfeited my check as well as they did was beyond me. Fortunately, the bank refused to accept the check because they thought it was a fraud. So they took pictures and even had a video of him coming up to the drive-through.

In the memo, on that check, the guy wrote "bonus pay." I don't know

what he meant by that, but I sure would like to give him a bonus pay, if you know what I mean.

I spent an afternoon in the bank closing that account and opening another account so they wouldn't try that again. So the bank encouraged me to take this information to the police department and file a complaint.

The bank where they tried to cash the counterfeit check was in Georgia.

So after the doctor's visit, we went to the police department to file a complaint.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "You can go in, and I'll stay here in the car."

That worked for me, and so I went in to the police

station to file the complaint.

After I presented my case, the police officer said, "What is your address?"

I told him, and he said, "I'm afraid that's in the county, and we cannot process that complaint because we are here in the city." Therefore I had to take my complaint to the Sheriff's office. It was okay because it wasn't that far from our house.

I left the police department, and looked for my wife's car. It was nowhere to be found. So I looked up and down, and nowhere could I find her red sissy van.

At the time, I didn't know what to do because, as "luck would have it," I did not bring my cell phone. Isn't it interesting,

I never need my cell phone unless I don't have it with me?

So I couldn't text her to see where she was at.

After a while, I became nervous about this. Where is she?

I was tempted to return to the police department and file a missing person report.

Thinking about the whole situation, I asked myself, "If I was my wife, where would I go?"

That sure is a crazy question to ask, but you try anything when you're in a difficult situation. It's been over ½ hour, and I still could not find her.

Then one of those crazy thoughts bounced into my head. If I was my wife, I know exactly where I would go. She isn't known

as the Thrift Store Queen for naught. At least, this was something to do.

The police department is at the beginning of a long line of shopping stores for over a block. Perhaps along that line, there was a thrift store.. My only problem with that, I would have to walk the whole distance.

As I was standing there thinking of what to do next, a woman passed by, and I stopped her and said, "Ma'am do you know if there's a thrift store near-by?"

She laughed and said, "Yes, but it's usually just for women." And she laughed some more.

Smiling as I looked at her, I said, "Where would

See REPORT, Page 15

An Eight-Cow Wife

By Daris Howard

We have had an unusually cold fall, and it reminded me of the year my wife, Donna, and I got engaged. We met one summer at a small college in Idaho that we attended. I lived close by, but Donna was from California. We dated through the fall and got engaged before Christmas, planning a spring wedding.

I had gone down to meet

her family at Thanksgiving, so I chose to stay in Idaho for the Christmas break and try to earn money to pay for her ring, our wedding, and the honeymoon. I found a job at a large, local dairy that milked cows on two eight-hour shifts.

It was a cold winter. In fact, for an entire week, the national news announced that St. Anthony, Idaho, was the low of the continental United States at fifty

below. That's where I was working, and I had grown up there, but I hadn't ever experienced it that cold. A person has to be careful in those temperatures. I went out once to get some more cows into the milking corral, and my hand froze to the gate the instant I touched it. When I finally got free, my hand blistered across my entire palm.

Being the Christmas season, some of the milk-

ing crew left, and we were shorthanded. Most days, they asked me to work both shifts. When things went wrong, which they often did in that kind of weather, I ended up being there nearly twenty-four hours straight. I was only getting about four hours of sleep

each day.

I had a relative who saw all the hours I was working and asked why I would take such a job. When I told her that part of the reason I did was because I wanted to buy a nice ring for Donna, the relative chastised me and told me I was a fool.

"My husband gave me his class ring when we got engaged," she said. "That was good enough for me."

I reminded her of a show we both had seen where the man gave eight cows to pay for his future wife.

See WIFE, Page 16

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Christmas: An Act Of Worship



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Matthew 2:1-12

1) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. 2) And asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." . . .

. . . 11) On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

This media advertisement is encouraging people to remember the real meaning of Christmas. Then the picture fades to a mattress company delivering a truckload of furniture to a needy family.

Also, I read a commentary in the paper whose author was a grandfather. He said this year he could no longer be cynical about Christmas, now he wanted to reflect on its true meaning and the warm feeling it brings into his heart be-



cause of the excitement it brings to his grandchildren.

Both ideas are good, but they both missed the point of the real meaning of Christmas. Christmas is more than good deeds and good feelings. Christmas is a time of Worship.

There are some wrong attitudes towards Worship that exist today. Some people see Worship occurring only when you go to church. Worship is more than going to church; it doesn't occur only on Sunday mornings, it doesn't occur only in a big room with a big cross in the front of it.

Nor is it the experience of good and/or soul-stirring music. These are all expressions of religious practices. We can engage in these practices without ever having worshipped God.

Worship gives God, our Heavenly Father, respect, honor and glory. Worship occurs when we recognize our insignificance and acknowledge Christ's deity. Christmas is a time to Worship and Praise God.

The most important thing we can do during this time of the year is to stop, Worship and Praise God for what He has done. We are called to be worshippers.

Worshippers will be inconvenienced, as the, ". . . 'Magi from the east to Jerusalem' they came a great distance; yet, they stopped what they were doing and took the time to worship Jesus. People do what is important to them. We are told to prioritize worshipping God. **Hebrews 10:25.**

Worshippers steps out on Faith. The wise men fol-

lowed a star. They packed their bags, gathered their supplies and traveled for an extended period of time based on a sighting in the sky.

We celebrate Christmas because Christ was born to take your place and die for you. Do you know him today?

Worshippers show God proper respect; "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him."

The word Worship means to "bow down and respect." God is not "the man upstairs", He is the Almighty, Creator and a Sovereign God.

Worshippers sacrificially give of their personal finances but more importantly, they give of themselves. "Then they opened their

treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." **Matthew 1:11.**

Gold acknowledged Christ's deity or purity. Frankincense acknowledged the fragrance of Christ's life. Myrrh (used for embalming) acknowledged Christ death.

The more important an individual is to a person, the more they spend on them. Is God important to you? Does your giving reflect your commitment to

Him?

The Bible tell us about David's attitude towards giving, as found in **2 Samuel 24:24**; "But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

The story is also told that David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. Make WORSHIP your response to Christmas, always.

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REPORT, from Page 14

that thrift store be?"

"What are you looking for," she asked, "maybe there's one I could direct you to."

I was nervous, but without thinking I said, "I'm looking for a wife."

"Well," she said laughing, "a thrift store is the best place to find a wife that I know of."

Then she pointed up the row and said there was a thrift store at the end of that line. She added, "You'll find a lot of wives in that store so that you can make

your own choice." Then, walking away, she laughed hysterically.

From where I was standing, I could see something that looked like a thrift store way down at the end. So I started walking and when I arrived at that thrift store, guess who was inside?

On our way home, I couldn't help but think of the Bible verse in Isaiah 41:10. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea,

I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

No matter what my fears might be, I know that God is going to guide me through that situation for his honor and glory.

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

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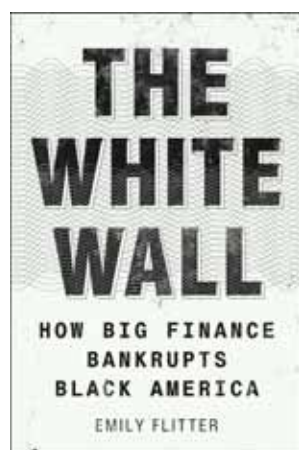
NDG Book Review: 'The White Wall' has an essential message

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The big red-brick building down the road is where you get your groceries.

You have to drive there, past the shiny chrome car dealership, left by the green gas station. The yellow fast-food place is your kids' favorite; that's in the same block. And that large brown building? That's where you do your banking and keep your money. But, as in the new book "The White Wall" by Emily Flitter, can you get that money out?

A number of years ago, when she was a banking reporter for the New York Times, Flitter tried to fol-



low a lead on a Black man who'd been fired from his job at a major financial company. It turned out to be a weak lead but meanwhile, she met a lawyer who turned her toward a much

bigger issue: racism in the financial industry.

Recent polls show that most Americans have no idea that there's a racial wealth gap. They don't know about the Black / White gap in family wealth. They have no clue that Black families fared much worse in the 2008 financial crisis than did whites, or that they're struggling again in this post-Pandemic time.

The truth is that racism thrives in banking institutions where, Flitter says, Black consumers are often profiled as "suspicious" by white bank employees, even if they have a paper trail of

proof for their own money. Black borrowers are often given less service and more wrong information; Flitter also found instances where skin color determined interest rates. Bank customers who are Black aren't always offered the valuable perks that white customers get. Insurance companies are not servicing Black homeowners the same as they do white homeowners. Not even Black business owners escape racism within the financial industry.

That isn't even mentioning the proportionately low number of Black employees in those institutions, or the insufficient number of high-

level leaders.

Clearly, says Flitter, "Corporate America has a long way to go."

Pick up your copy of "The White Wall," hold it tight, and make room on your lap for your jaw. It may be dropping a lot while you're reading this shocking book.

Or maybe not. What's in here might not come as much of a surprise to some readers who live this reality every day – and for that, author Emily Flitter has some words for you, starting with this: what you've experienced is no anomaly.

For Wall Street and for every large business in the

nation, she offers more in an entire chapter devoted to ideas on how to do better by making financial services more accessible for Black Americans. On that, there's good news in Flitter's final words and that's a happy start but, judging by the many, many stories she shares, readers could absolutely be forgiven for any lingering pessimism...

Still, this informative book is easy for even the most busy executive to read and use, and its essential message shouts to be heard. This book could create new consciousness, or "The White Wall" may also leave you blue.

WIFE, from Page 14

The usual amount was two or three, with no one ever paying more than five. But the man wanted the woman to know how much she was worth to him.

"We don't pay cows for a wife in our society," I said. "But a man gives the girl a ring, and when he tries to make it the best he can, it shows how much she means to him. Each person

needs to decide for themselves how to show their love. I want Donna to have a nice ring."

My relative ignored what I said and continued to chide me about my decision. I would come home from a long, bitter day of work and pull a chair up to the woodstove to get warm. As soon as my relative walked into the room,

she started in on me again. I tried hard to ignore her, sometimes even leaving the warmth of the room to get away. But a person can only take so much.

One day, after working in the cold, I came in late at night. I was too tired to eat, so I got a cup of hot chocolate and sat by the wood stove. I had just received my paycheck, and I pulled out a catalog to consider the absolute best ring

I could afford. That was when my relative walked in. She saw what I was looking at.

"You know, you are so stupid," she said. "Look at the price of the rings you are looking at. They are hundreds of dollars. The class ring my husband gave me cost less than forty."

I finally could take no more. "That was probably sufficient," I replied. "But that would not be enough for Donna because she is not a one-cow type of lady."

My relative stormed from the room. She didn't speak to me for about a

month.

It was really nice.

(Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at daris@darishoward.com; or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>, to buy his books.)



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