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Sheila Jackson Lee Introduces Anti-White Supremacy Bill, then Schools Republican Boebert on Hate

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

That's enough of racism and bigotry, says Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

The Democratic representative from Texas has introduced House Resolution 61, which would amend Title 18 of the United States Code to broaden the definition of hate crimes, with the goal of preventing and prosecuting hate crimes motivated by white supremacy and conspiracy to commit such crimes.

The text of the bill reads as follows: "A person commits a white supremacy inspired hate crime when white supremacist ideology has motivated the planning, development, preparation, or perpetration of actions that constituted a crime or were undertaken in furtherance of activity that, if effectuated, would have constituted a crime."

With respect to any information or evidence obtained by the Department of Justice of any unlawful action specified in Jackson-Lee's bill, the DOJ shall have the authority to conduct operations and activities pursuant to such crimes.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) would also be authorized to conduct



The Department of Justice's Uniform Crime Reporting Program would keep track of white supremacist-inspired hate crimes and other related actions, and Justice Department officials would have the authority to prosecute those responsible for them. (Photo via NNPA)

investigations, intervene, and take any other measures it deems necessary and appropriate to prevent, mitigate, or stop any potentially violent action.

The Department of Justice's Uniform Crime Reporting Program would keep track of white supremacist-inspired hate crimes and other related actions, and Justice Department officials would have the authority to prosecute those responsible for them.

Jackson Lee has requested that the DOJ report its findings annually to the relevant Congressional com-

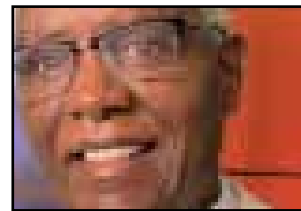
mittees.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, a Republican from Colorado, claimed the legislation "makes a mockery of the First Amendment."

While Boebert, a right-wing leader, misrepresented the legislation after reading a misleading news article, Jackson Lee schooled her on Twitter.

"First of all, it took me about 32 seconds of reading the article you cited to understand that none of you know what you are talking about,"

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The Black Press is no comedy show

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People In The News ...



Dorothy Jones



Zihair Douglas

NDG Quote of the Week: "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."
—Alice Walker

Dorothy Jones

Dorothy Jones, a seasoned communications leader and brand strategy executive with a distinguished career in corporate marketing, has joined Dallas College as its new Chief Marketing Officer (CMO).

After an extensive search to identify the right candidate, Jones takes the reins from outgoing interim CMO Dr. Bradford Williams, who led the department for the past six months during a time of transition following the pandemic. Jones is charged with leading a staff of nearly 70 with



in the College's Department of Marketing and Communications.

Jones most recently was head of her own marketing and management consulting firm. Over the course of her

diverse career, she has marketed and advertised brands at large for-profit companies and non-profit organizations that include Frito Lay, Nestle and Interstate Batteries, where as CMO she led a large team to drive an expansive organizational and digital transformation. She also has held leadership positions at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, as Global Vice President of Marketing, and at Sally Beauty, where she served as Vice President of Retail and Integrated Marketing.

Jones holds an MBA from the Haslam College of

Business at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from The American University in Washington, D.C.

"We are very excited to welcome Dorothy as our new CMO," said Chancellor Justin Lonon. "Dorothy is a proven high-energy executive who will increase awareness of Dallas College as the premier institution for transforming lives and communities through higher education in Dallas County. She will be leading the marketing and communications team in telling the Dallas College story amid

an increasingly competitive marketing landscape.

With the selection of Jones, Dr. Williams returns full-time to his previous duties as president of the El Centro Campus.

As an experienced C-suite executive, Jones has consulted and guided companies in the areas of business transformation, change management, communications strategy, public relations, brand strategy, analytics and insights, digital strategy, social media engagement, content management, business partnership, distribution and more.

"A big reason why I am

so proud to join Dallas College is that it represents the epitome of inclusion for anyone seeking a better life through education and training," Jones said.

"As an institution of higher ed that is so deeply woven into the fabric of Dallas County, Dallas College's student population already mirrors our highly diverse community. Our impact among students, their families and community members – who all benefit from Dallas College – is a cause I look forward to championing, especially among those who may not know what Dallas College has to offer."

Zihair Douglas

DALLAS, HOUSTON, CHICAGO – Elementary school students shared inspirational messages and celebrated their diverse communities while honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the final rounds of Foley & Lardner LLP's Annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competitions in Dallas, Houston, and Chicago on January 13.

Zihair Douglas, a fifth-grader at Thomas L. Mar-salis Elementary STEAM Academy was the first-place winner in Dallas. Douglas thinks Dr. King would be disappointed at



the reversals of laws and policies protecting individual rights, but that he would be proud of the educational, political, and entrepreneurial leaders stepping up and advocating for social justice.

Douglas said, "I believe in order for us to improve our nation, we need to make intelligent decisions that will positively improve the lives of people from all cultures and backgrounds. . . I charge each of you and myself to fulfill Dr. King's legacy and create a better world for ourselves and our future generations."

The fourth- and fifth-graders, who advanced from preliminary and semi-final rounds, delivered original speeches addressing the topic: "What would Dr. King say to us today about hope for tomorrow?"

At every level of the competition, students were

evaluated on delivery, stage presence and decorum, content interpretation, and memorization. The final rounds were judged by panels of prominent community and local business leaders.

"Every year, our student participants are tasked with writing a speech in response to a thought-provoking

prompt. This year has been no different, and I'm extraordinarily proud of our eight finalists for their hard work and enthusiasm. I'm simply awestruck by their poise, talent, and passion for sharing what Dr. King's legacy means to them," said Michael Newman, managing partner of Foley's Dallas office.

"These children are our future leaders, and I'm confident they will make a profound impact on our community. Our firm is honored to play a role in providing a platform for them to express their dreams and aspirations for building a brighter tomorrow."

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Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis

No Labels, a nonprofit think tank that describes itself as a national movement of Democrats, Republicans, and independents working to solve the country's most complex problems, has named Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. as its national co-chair.

The formal announcement occurred during a Zoom news conference on January 22.

It included welcome messages from Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia), and former Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, among others.

Recording star Deborah Cox opened the introduc-



tory news conference by performing a spirited song about the organization. No Labels created the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus and an allied Senate group that led passage of some of the most important legislation of recent years, including the CHIPS Act, a gun safety bill, and a rewrite of the

Electoral Count Act in 2022.

Voiceovers were woven in from former U.S. Presidents from John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama. The organization then played a tribute video that included Dr. Chavis' family and his legendary career as a civil rights leader.

"As a veteran of the civil rights movement, during the last six decades, I've learned a few things about the importance of people working together across lines of race, ethnicity, language, geography, and the things that divide us. I want to work on things that unite us as Americans. I believe No Labels offers

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While Black newspapers reveal serial rapists, mainstream turns to comedy

By Stacy M. Brown
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In a news story that likely will leave some head-scratching along with palpable outrage, Kansas City police dismissed a Black News report of missing women.

Then one showed up.

"The story shows why it's absolutely essential to have radical Black media outlets that are unapologetic and unafraid to report on issues that white news outlets don't want to talk about or that they will water down or whitewash," Ryan Sorrell, the 27-year-old founder of the Kansas City Defender, told the independent Capital B News.

The Black Press has been the primary voice of the Black community for 196 years. It informs those who are frequently forgotten or ignored by the mainstream media.

The Black Press of America has always spoken truth to power.

Despite the horrors of slavery, the disgust and inhumanity of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Era, and the global Black Lives Matter Movement, the Black Press has marched on.

And the community has continued to depend on the Black Press without being let down.

Reports that main-

stream outlets quickly have dropped news and information further underscore the importance of the Black Press of America.

The latest news is that CNN, which once held itself as the leader in cable news, is looking for a comedian to fill its crucial 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. time slot.

Media folks are talking about Bill Maher, Arsenio Hall, and Trevor Noah as possible replacements for the spot that Anderson Cooper and Don Lemon once occupied.

"The 'news entertainment' personality could fill the prime-time hours of 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. with a non-traditional version of the news," Semafor, the global news platform, reported.

The outlet cited five people familiar with the planning.

Reportedly, CNN executives have looked at other comedic news-focused talk shows for inspiration.

Executives have also discussed turning the 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. hours into a series of shows modeled like a variety program, with "shows within shows" for different journalists, one network official told Semafor.

The discussions are aimed at turning away from the competition with MSNBC for liberal news junkies and toward pulling viewers from HGTV, ESPN, and Netflix, Semafor further re-

ported.

The potential move at CNN comes even as critical news about people of color is only found in the Black Press, like the story the Kansas City Defender broke.

Excelsior Springs authorities arrested Timothy Haslett Jr., 39, after a Black woman claimed she escaped from a basement and sought help from his neighbors, alleging Haslett raped, whipped, and detained her against her will for weeks.

The woman reportedly escaped while Haslett was dropping his son off at school. The Defender reported that police searched his home and discovered a "dungeonlike cell" in his basement, painted black and equipped with several "devices" to restrain the woman.

Authorities charged Haslett with first-degree rape, first-degree kidnapping, and second-degree assault.

The Defender reported that Haslett was known to post racist content on Facebook. He also had problems with Black soldiers when he was in the military.

More than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies are represented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

These newspapers and media companies, which

comprise the Black Press of America, provide news and information to people all over the world.

Meanwhile, the Semafor report noted that CNN "is also reckoning with its need to have talent on hand to cover major breaking news events, such as the House Speaker's race, which ran late into the evening and boosted CNN's ratings."

Further, the report noted that other outlets have already started looking at comedy to replace news.

"Fox has found success with 'Gutfeld!,' a conservative alternative to late-night TV shows dominated by liberal hosts that tries very hard to be funny and regularly beats its traditional late-night competitors," Semafor reported.

"NBCU executives have considered moving Seth Meyers' show to MSNBC."

Semafor also offered that such an experiment could also deliver a programming disaster for the mainstream news outlet.

Quoting the Washington Post's Erik Wemple, Semafor observed, "Consider a scenario in which said entertainer was on air at the moment that an overseas war broke out, or an earthquake struck, or some states person died. Watching the network scramble to switch back into hard-news mode — well, that would surely be entertaining."

Religious colleges can operate according to beliefs, receive federal financial aid

By David Cortman
Senior Counsel and
VP of U.S. Litigation
Alliance Defending Freedom

A federal court recently dismissed *Hunter v. U.S. Department of Education* and continues to allow students to direct federal tuition assistance to educa-

tional institutions that share their religious beliefs.

The lawsuit was filed by an activist group and was intended to prevent any students from using tuition grants, student loans, and any other federal financial assistance at schools that operate according to religious beliefs on gender or

sexual morality.

A lawsuit filed by a recently formed LGBT activist group on behalf of some current and former students intends to prevent any students from using tuition grants, student loans, and any other federal financial assistance at schools that operate according to reli-

gious beliefs on sexuality.

A federal district court today rightly rejected an unfounded assault on the religious freedom of faith-based educational institutions. Title IX, which applies to schools receiving federal financial assistance,

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Keep up with the news

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Adopting pediatric readiness standards improves survival in hospital emergency departments

WASHINGTON -- Emergency departments that have the highest levels of coordination of health care, personnel, procedures and medical equipment needed to care for ill and injured children have far higher rates of survival than hospitals with low readiness, according to a study funded by the National Institutes of Health. Researchers found that more than 1,400 children's deaths may have been prevented if hospital emergency departments had adopted national pediatric care readiness standards as laid out by the National Pediatric Readiness



Project. The six-year study of 983 emergency departments in 11 states followed nearly 800,000 children.

The National Pediatric Readiness Project was established to ensure that all emergency departments

have the coordination of health care, personnel, procedures and medical equipment needed to care for ill and injured children. According to the project's checklist, standards include specifications for physi-

cian and nurse certification, patient assessment, triage, medication administration, and trauma resuscitation and stabilization.

In the current study, researchers sought to determine if adopting the readiness standards would lower the death rate among children admitted to emergency departments for serious injury or illness. They ranked the emergency departments into four segments (quartiles) according to the extent they had implemented the readiness standards.

Compared to children cared for in low-readiness

departments, children with injuries cared for in high-readiness departments had a 60% lower chance of dying in the hospital; and children with medical illness had a 76% lower chance of dying while they were in the hospital. Similarly, among roughly 545,000 children in six states, injured children in the highest quartile had a 41% lower chance of dying within a year and children with medical issues had a 66% lower chance of dying within a year, compared to children cared for in hospitals in the lowest readiness quartile.

The study was conducted by Craig D. Newgard, M.D., of Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, and colleagues. It appears in JAMA Network Open. Funding was provided by NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

A previous study by the authors found that adopting the readiness centers at trauma centers improved the survival of children with serious injuries.

New approach successfully traces genomic variants back to genetic disorders

WASHINGTON -- National Institutes of Health researchers have published an assessment of 13 studies that took a genotype-first approach to patient care. This approach contrasts with the typical phenotype-first approach to clinical research, which starts with clinical findings. A genotype-first approach to patient care involves selecting patients with specific genomic variants and then studying their traits and symptoms; this finding uncovered new relationships between genes and clinical conditions, broadened the traits and symptoms associated with known disorders, and offered insights into newly described disorders. The study was published in the American Journal of Human Genetics.

"We demonstrated that genotype-first research can work, especially for identifying people with rare disorders who otherwise might not have been brought to clinical attention," says Caralynn Wilczewski, Ph.D., a genetic counselor at the National Human Genome Research Institute's (NHGRI) Reverse Pheno-

typing Core and first author of the paper.

Typically, to treat genetic conditions, researchers first identify patients who are experiencing symptoms, then they look for variants in the patients' genomes that might explain those findings. However, this can lead to bias because the researchers are studying clinical findings based on their understanding of the disorder. The phenotype-first approach limits researchers from understanding the full spectrum of symptoms of the disorders and the associated genomic variants.

"Genomics has the potential to change reactive medicine into preventative medicine," said Leslie Biesecker, M.D., NIH distinguished investigator, director of NHGRI's Center for Precision Health Research and a senior author of the article. "Studying how taking a genotype-first approach to research can help us learn how to model predictive and precision medicine in the future."

The study documents three types of discoveries from a genotype-first approach.

First, the researchers found that this approach helped discover new relationships between genomic variants and specific clinical traits. For example, one NIH study found that having more than two copies of the TPSAB1 gene was associated with symptoms related to the gastrointestinal tract, connective tissues, and the nervous system.

Second, this approach helped researchers find novel symptoms related to a disorder that clinicians previously missed because the patient did not have the typical symptoms. NHGRI researchers identified a person with a genomic variant associated with a known metabolic disorder. Further testing found that the individual had high levels of certain chemicals in their body associated with the disorder, despite having only minor symptoms.

Third, this approach allowed researchers to determine the function of specific genomic variants, which has the potential to help clinicians understand newly described disorders. For example, in one study, NHGRI researchers and

their collaborators found that a genomic variant was associated with immune dysfunction at the molecular level in blood cells.

The 13 studies that implemented a genotype-first approach used genomic data from NHGRI's Reverse Phenotyping Core in the Center for Precision Health Research. The core aggregates genomic data from programs such as ClinSeq(R) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) Centralized Sequencing Protocol, which together allowed analyses to be performed on more than 16,000 research participants who have undergone genome or exome sequencing.

Exome and genome sequencing data from participants who consented to broad genomic data sharing and recontact for future research studies are currently available to NIH intramural researchers through the Reverse Phenotyping Core Genomic Data Browser to identify genomic variants of interest for their own research.

"Importantly, we provide

a framework for other institutions to build research programs that allow for genotype-first studies. With more programs taking this approach, we can better study the predictive potential of genomic medicine," said Clesson Turner, M.D., director of NHGRI's Reverse Phenotyping Core and a senior author of the article.

The framework includes broad genomic data sharing with the ability to recontact participants explicitly stated during the informed consent process. NHGRI researchers recommend institutions aiming to establish genotype-first centers create strategic plans, especially for deciding what genomic findings will be returned, which may involve genetic counseling services. Importantly, according to the study, researchers must actively communicate with study participants to build informed and trusting long-term relationships.

"In the future, as more researchers adopt this approach, we hope to identify more people who may be helped by the availability of their genome sequence,

especially as more diverse populations join genome-sequencing studies," says Dr. Wilczewski.

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) is one of the 27 institutes and centers at the NIH, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The NHGRI Division of Intramural Research develops and implements technology to understand, diagnose and treat genomic and genetic diseases. Additional information about NHGRI can be found at: www.genome.gov.

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.



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Doswell Foundation funds new mentoring program at Dallas CASA

Dallas' Doswell Foundation has awarded Dallas CASA four years of funding, totaling \$584,931, to create a post-case mentoring pilot program.

Dallas CASA's trained and supervised volunteers advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. As part of Dallas CASA's new strategic plan, which aims to expand the agency's impact in ways that match the most critical needs of children and families, the agency is launching a post-case mentoring



program with staff support for advocates to mentor youth and young adults after their legal case has ended and they leave the child welfare system.

The program initially aims to support youth aging out of foster care. When a youth ages out of foster care, the formal relationship with their Dallas

CASA volunteer ends, too. These young adults face increased risks of homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, human trafficking and many other challenges as they move into independent adulthood without support.

With the agreement of caregivers or young adults who have aged out, Dallas CASA volunteers often stay in touch after a case closes, serving as important mentors. Through the post-care mentorship program, trained Dallas CASA staff will guide and oversee volunteers as they mentor

young people, offering support, advice and direction. Formalizing and providing structure for these mentorships will improve their effectiveness and increase the resources available to support a successful transition to adulthood.

"Our hope is that this program becomes a support system for youth that will allow them to continue established, trusted relationships," said Chad Frymire, Dallas CASA's director of public policy. "We want to empower, support and mentor young people.

"Especially with vulner-

able populations like youth aging out of foster care, we can do so much good for society if we can prevent things like unemployment or homelessness with work on the front end, rather than dealing with those things once they've happened. We want to prevent, not react."

While Texas law has been revised to extend foster care beyond age 18 in certain circumstances, the personal, one-on-one connection is what many youth aging out of care crave.

One of Dallas CASA's

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New legislation calls for much needed campaign contribution limits in Texas

AUSTIN — Saturday, Jan. 21, marked the 13th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's disastrous decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, which opened the floodgates to unlimited political spending by wealthy special interests.

Currently, Texas remains one of the few states without contribution limits for state offices, allowing for historic war chests of preserved campaign resources.

In fact, in 2022, more than \$200 million was spent in the Texas Governor's

race alone, while over \$488 million was spent by Texas state-level candidates in the 2022 election cycle, TransparencyUSA reports.

House Bill 47, by Texas Rep. Erin Zwiener, a bill strongly supported by Common Cause Texas, would create a limit of \$5,000 on individual contributions to statewide or legislative candidates, and \$10,000 limit on contributions from political committees.

"The best way to ensure that our elections have integrity is to make sure

Texas elected officials are not for sale," said State Representative Erin Zwiener (HD-45). "It's time the Texas Legislature enacted common sense campaign contribution limits.

"I want elected officials to be accountable to their constituents, not their big donors," Zwiener said. "We need to set a new standard of putting people first in politics, instead of money."

HB 47 seeks to limit the amount of donations by an individual to \$5,000, the amount of donations by a

Political Action Committee to \$10,000 for statewide electoral campaigns, and the amount of donations received for statewide judicial candidates to \$10,000 per electoral cycle.

Katya Ehresman, Voting Rights Program Manager at Common Cause Texas, said Texas has allowed megadonors to dictate public policy and that campaign contributions on candidate campaigns and for political action committees are long overdue.

Ehresman said that pub-

lic policy bends in the direction of wealth, which is particularly true in Texas, where the wealthy are allowed to contribute unlimited monies to state lawmakers." Ehresman pushes for strong protections for our democracy to prevent big money from setting the agenda and rigging the rules in their favor.

Despite being one of the states with the most money spent on our elections, there has not willingness from Texas lawmakers to put people over politics and

ensure every Texas voter is heard equally. House Bill 47, filed by Rep. Zwiener, is a much-needed step to curb the unrestricted influence of money in politics in Texas.

"Texas lawmakers should be beholden to the interest of their constituents, not their largest contributors," Ehresman said. "On this anniversary of *Citizens United*, Texas lawmakers are largely silent and unwilling to act to curb the outpaced influence by the wealthy in our elections; Texas voters deserve better."

Following more mass shootings Democrats introduce assault weapons ban

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Two proposals aimed at curbing the spread of assault rifles were submitted today by Democratic senators Dianne Feinstein of California, and Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

The Assault Weapons Ban seeks to prohibit the commercialization, distribution, production, and importation of assault rifles and other firearms designed for use in military operations, as well as high-capacity magazines and similar devices.

On January 22, a gunman opened fire on a crowd celebrating the Lunar New Year in Monterey Park,



California, killing 11 and wounding 9.

The Democrats' proposed Age 21 Act would make it illegal to sell or buy an assault weapon to anybody under 21, bringing it in line with the legal age for purchasing handguns.

President Joe Biden has publicly stated his support for the legislation.

Biden said that the number of mass shootings de-

clined during the decade that the Assault Weapons Ban was in effect.

"In the 10 years that the Assault Weapons Ban was on the books, mass shootings went down," Biden remarked.

"After Republicans let the law expire in 2004, and those weapons were allowed to be sold again, mass shootings tripled," he declared.

Both houses of Congress were urged to take quick action by the president.

According to Biden, "the majority of American people agree with this rational measure."

"There can be no greater responsibility than to do all we can to ensure the safety of our children, our communities and our nation," he insisted.

In the House of Representatives, Rhode Island Democrat David Cicilline said he plans to introduce a companion bill to the Senate's Assault Weapons Ban.

Feinstein said that assault rifles, built for maximum efficiency in mass murder, are the "unifying denominator" in the endless horrific shootings. With no place in our society or schools,

she urges people to take a stand against the gun lobby to get these lethal weapons off our streets and out of the hands of our youth.

Blumenthal added, as the gunman at the Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park demonstrated just days ago, assault weapons are designed for one and one purpose only: to murder or hurt human beings. These military-style combat weapons are designed for the battlefield, but continue to be the weapon of choice in mass shootings on our streets.

"Guns don't respect state boundaries, which is why we need a national solution to restricting the ownership and use of assault weapons. Now is the time to honor gun violence victims and

survivors with this commonsense action," he argues.

Rep. Cicilline argued that it is long past due to reinstate an assault weapon ban and remove these "weapons of war" from civilian areas.

The assault weapons prohibition "passed the House last year with bipartisan backing, but was blocked by Senate Republicans," Cicilline noted.

"We need to come together to enact this commonsense, effective, and proven policy to reduce gun violence and save lives. I thank Senator Feinstein for her partnership in this fight and look forward to introducing the House companion bill in the coming weeks."

Dallas ISD teacher transforming student lives through reading

Jose Fernando Loaiza never expected to become a teacher, but when he entered his first classroom, he said it did not take him long to realize he had found where he was supposed to be. Twenty years later, he now relies on students' love of reading to transform their lives and make memorable moments at San Jacinto Elementary School.

"I love this job," said Loaiza, a second-grade bilingual teacher. "Teaching is a calling. It is not for everyone, but if it's done well and with passion, we get to go to bed every day knowing we impacted someone in a positive way. As a teacher, service to others is my currency. That passion was instilled in me since I was little, and it still rings true in me."



Courtesy photo

As San Jacinto's 2022 campus Teacher of the Year, Loaiza is dedicated not only to his students' success, but also to the success of his school community. One day, Loaiza was encouraging a student to find a quiet spot to read at home, and the response inspired him to start San Jacinto's after-school reading club.

"He looked me straight in the eye and said, 'I have nine people in my house. I have no space,'" Loaiza said. "You forget that some of our students are in those situations, so I wanted to create a reading lab for them."

Loaiza gathered his family and other teachers, cleared out a portable building that was being used for

storage and got donations of couches, artwork, beanbags and more to furnish it. Now, he said 20 to 30 students regularly stop by on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for 40 minutes of quiet reading and 20 minutes of fun.

"It's a space where they can read whatever they want to and explore that joy of reading in silence," Loaiza said. "And since we don't use it during the day, our school psychologist has her sessions there. She was telling me, 'This is great because it doesn't feel like a school at all.' It's nice to see how that little project is impacting another educator with her work."

Loaiza, a former basketball player, was also inspired to start a girls' basketball club on campus

last year. He began with just seven students and has grown the group to about 25 fourth and fifth graders, with plans to bring a boys' team together soon.

His efforts to create safe, engaging spaces for students have not gone unnoticed.

"Mr. Loaiza goes above and beyond for our school and believes all students are his students," said Ashley Combs, a fellow San Jacinto teacher. "He leads with passion and others gravitate toward it. Any way he can brighten a child's day or even a teacher's day, he will accomplish that. He believes everything is possible for our students and refuses to settle for anything less than the best. We are grateful to have such a selfless, passionate and em-

powering educator on our campus."

Principal Sarah Hafley-Mendoza added, "We are honored to experience Mr. Loaiza's passion and dedication on a daily basis. His impact is truly infinite. His care for our students, staff and community makes a big difference. Thank you for being so inspiring!"

Through it all, Loaiza has remained dedicated to what he sees as a teacher's currency: service.

"We want to make San Jacinto one of the best schools in Dallas ISD," Loaiza said.

"We have a strong team of teachers, wonderful administrators and a wonderful community. That's one of the many reasons I'm here: I love this community, the parents, the students."

Irving ISD asks voters to approve \$700,000 bond

On January 17, the Irving ISD School Board voted unanimously to seek voter approval for a \$701,750,000 bond issue. This process has been a community effort over the last six months, enlisting the assistance of a Bond Facility Planning Committee comprised of citizens, city leaders, board members, district employees, teachers and parents. The committee dedicated several months to data collection, evaluations and planning to compile this bond package and make a recommendation to the school board.

"We have not called for a bond since 2007, yet have



Mohammadali Dahaghini/Unsplash

lowered the tax rate since 2015," says Irving ISD Superintendent of Schools Magda Hernandez. "One of our district goals is to have state-of-the-art facilities. Without an upcoming bond, these capital projects will have to be addressed

out of the general fund, which will impact the funds available to support all other district instructional efforts and programming."

The bond includes five propositions, each with a different cost, scope and tax impact. Propositions

would fund state mandated safety/security upgrades, the replacement of three schools that were built in the 1950's and renovations at remaining Irving ISD schools. The bond proposals also include replacing the Student Transportation and Logistics Center, which is currently housed in a building constructed in 1945; technology upgrades; and new facilities such as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, multipurpose indoor facilities and performing arts center.

Voters will have the opportunity to vote on each proposition separately, beginning with early voting

from April 24 to May 2, and Election Day on May 6. "We are asking every citizen to be educated about the bond," says Superintendent Hernandez. "It is important to have your voice heard during this election. Remind your friends, neighbors and relatives to get involved and ask questions."

The five bond propositions are as follows:

Proposition A of \$538,750,00, which includes renovation of 32 schools, replacement of 3 schools (Barton, Farine, Crockett), two baby universities (employee childcare centers), career and tech-

nology education center, fine arts transportation and equipment, and safety and security;

Proposition B of \$18,000,000 for technology; and

Proposition C of \$17,000,000, which would include replacement of a center for student transportation and logistics;

Proposition D of \$45,000,000, which would include three new indoor practice/JROTC facilities; and

Proposition E of \$83,000,000, to include a new performing arts center.

For more information, visit IrvingISDbond.com

CHAVIS, from Page 2

that opportunity but also that responsibility to move forward."

Dr. Chavis discussed the importance of overcoming divisions and restoring bipartisanship in Congress and at all levels of government, explaining that his life's work had taught him that if everyone works together, divisions can

be overcome, and we can make progress.

"Americans today are worn out with all the divisions and looking for a way forward. No Labels offer that way forward," Chavis remarked.

As the new co-chair of No Labels, Dr. Chavis said he is proud to continue to be the president and CEO

of the National Newspaper Publishers Association on the 196th anniversary of the Black Press of America. "Working with former Sen. Joseph Lieberman and former Gov. Larry Hogan as co-chairs, I believe this will lift up the Black Press of America and elevate its visibility in the American mainstream politics, business, economics, and public policy that will

affect the quality of life in the communities in which we serve," he said.

Lieberman, a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut, who changed parties in 2006 and is now an Independent, commented that No Labels is fortunate to have Dr. Chavis on board due to his history as a civil rights leader and the kind of person he is, noting that Dr. Chavis

has always been a bridge-builder, who will bring much-needed civility to our government and our country.

Manchin, the conservative-leaning Democrat, said he got involved with No Labels more than 12 years ago because the organization works to unite America.

"We're still working to

unite this country . . . What we've done in the last two years in a bipartisan way because of No Labels has been [major], Manchin remarked.

"So I'm thrilled to have the experience of Dr. Chavis and the wealth of knowledge he's gained over the years that he'll share with us to help make us a more perfect union."

Plano High School students can apply for 10th annual Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program beginning Feb. 6

Student registration opens Monday, Feb. 6, for the competitive Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, a "learn-and-earn" program that places qualifying Plano sophomores and juniors at some of the area's top corporations and nonprofits. Presented by founding sponsor Capital One, the program taps students from Plano's award-winning and nationally recognized school district, connecting them with dozens of organizations, from national headquarters and government entities to small businesses, local charities and nonprofits. The deadline to apply is March 6.

In its 10th year, the eight-week paid internship program – offering remote and on-site placements (or a combination of both) – runs June 12-Aug. 4 (although some start dates are flexible). Students earn a minimum of \$12 per hour working 20-40 hours per week. Only the first 400 applications will be considered, so students are



Courtesy photo

encouraged to apply early.

Led by Plano Mayor John Muns, the program prepares the future workforce for a successful transition into college and their life-long careers. Since former Mayor Harry LaRosiliere's launch of the program in 2014, approximately 780 students have received summer internships, reaping invaluable benefits from being immersed in a professional workplace.

With internships rivaling

those at the college level, students get a wealth of experience – from networking with upper-level management, coordinating events and managing social media campaigns, to budgeting, banking and collaborating on projects. They will work in exciting fields such as hospitality, technology and aviation operations, education, logistics, nonprofits, marketing, medicine and more.

Once again, Mayor Muns

has made it a priority to increase the number of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students in the program, as well as students who will be first-generation college students.

To qualify, students must complete an online application, which includes short essays. Additionally, applicants must be a rising junior or senior at a Plano public high school OR a rising junior or senior at Hebron High School and reside in the City of Plano; have a cumulative 3.0 GPA (minimum) and solid attendance record; be 16 years of age by June 12, 2023; be eligible to work in the United States; and be able to work the entire eight weeks of the internship from June 12-Aug. 4 (or dates determined by the employer).

In addition, students must attend the Intern Prep virtual event (Saturday, March

See INTERNS, Page 12

DOUGLAS, from Page 2

Presented, hosted, and sponsored by Foley, the annual oratory competition was held in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr. Day to encourage people to remember and pay tribute to the late civil rights leader's legacy and to help cultivate the writing and speaking skills of elementary school students.

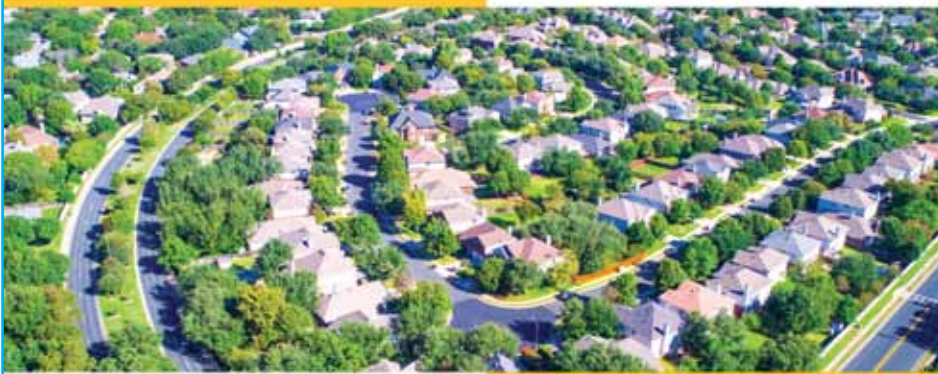
Other winners included Harper Williams, a fifth grader at Robert A. Black Elementary in Chicago, who encouraged that "we can't sit around and allow hope to die."

The first-place winner from Houston, Kadence Smith, a fifth-grader at James H. Law Elementary offered: "Dr. King would say the lines that divide us are not nearly as strong as the ties that bind us." His hope for tomorrow would be for "the world to lift every voice and sing in the key of unity, and live out the spirit of the Pledge, 'one nation under God, indivisible.'" He would say, "America, you have studied me for over 50 years. We know better; now let's do better!"

Mohamad Mohamad, a fifth-grader at Elisha M. Pease Elementary, placed second in the Dallas competition, and Bria Hider, a fifth-grader at J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard, placed third.

The competition was 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.

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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.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast honors King's legacy

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast drew about 350 people to Collin College's Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center on Jan. 14. The event celebrated Dr. King's legacy and his vision for a more just, equitable world.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Recharge, Reset, Renew Dr. King's Way," the event focused on messages of hope and renewed action. A panel of civic leaders addressed the theme with a lively roundtable filled with advice on how to get involved in the

community. The panel, led by breakfast co-chair Dr. Millie Black, included: Kyle Ray, pastor of Sent Church in Plano; Richie Butler, pastor of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church; and Dr. Cheryl Jackson, founder of Minnie's Food Pantry in Plano.

The breakfast also included a certificate of recognition presented by State Representatives Matt Shaheen (District 66) and Mihaela E. Plesa (District 70), and a proclamation from Plano's Mayor John B. Muns. Collin College students and staff also per-

formed, and multiple scholarships were announced.

At the event, Cornelius Wyche received the Jeanna Davis scholarship, named as a Plano leader who has been a champion for her city. Davis has provided service to the community through the DFW chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, the Zan Wesley Holmes Community Outreach Strategic Planning Board, St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, local PTAs, and booster clubs. She has served as chair of the Sunday night program for the

MLK weekend for the past two years and is the vice president of programs for the Plano Community Forum.

Scholarship recipients included Victoria Edwards, who was awarded a scholarship sponsored by the Plano North Metroplex Chapter of The Links, Inc; Prescilla Kengni, awarded the Pearls of Service Scholarship sponsored by the Chi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Peter Lam, who was awarded an MLK scholar-

See MLK, Page 12



Cornelius Wyche (center with certificate) receives the Jeanna Davis community scholarship at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast, Jan. 14 at Collin College's Plano Campus. Wyche is flanked by Davis, who was also honored at the breakfast for her service to the community, and Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. (Sara Carpenter / Collin College)

DA's Office celebrates 6th annual Expunction Expo with graduation ceremony

Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot, along with Dallas County District Clerk Felicia Pitre and many others, recently celebrated the culmination of the 6th Annual Dallas County Expunction Expo.

"I am proud to say the Expunction Expo is stronger and more important than ever in the lives of not only our participants but also in the lives of those who work to make this event possible," Dallas County Criminal District

Attorney John Creuzot said of the Expo.

As a result of this year's event, more than 450 expunctions have been entered. Of those, 121 people will have had their entire criminal histories cleared.

To date, through the

work of those involved in this annual event, upwards of 2,250 expunctions have been granted.

"Our goal through this program is and always has been to make expunctions accessible to those who might not otherwise

be able to afford an attorney or know how to navigate the legal system," DA Creuzot said.

"We all benefit from every Dallas County citizen being as productive and involved in the local community as possible. That

includes owning a home, obtaining an education, getting a job – all things that may not be possible with a criminal arrest record."

The Expunction Expo is

See DA, Page 11

RSO

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Fascinating Rhythm

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Leading ladies of jazz from stage and screen join the orchestra for a magical evening of lively, soulful music.

Capathia Jenkins



Aisha de Haas



Broadway Dallas announces new season of top stage hits

Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America (BAA) today announced the full lineup of Broadway shows coming to Dallas for the 2023/2024 Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas. The season includes four Dallas premieres and the return of audience favorites.

Season tickets are available now. Packages start at \$230 and new patrons can visit BroadwayDallas.org or call 866-276-4884 (Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.) to subscribe. Subscriber benefits include access to the best seats for one low price, priority access to additional tickets before public on sale, option to enroll in interest and fee-free payment plans, and ticket exchange privileges.

“We’re thrilled to announce such a fantastic season, with four shows



premiering at the Music Hall for the very first time and several crowd pleasers making their return. This season has something for everyone,” said Ken Novice, President and CEO of Broadway Dallas.

The 2023/2024 Germania Insurance Broadway Series launches in November with the multi-Tony Award®-winning new musical centered around the making of the 1992 Dangerous World Tour, MJ. The series continues with Cameron Mackintosh’s

acclaimed production of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg’s Tony Award®-winning musical phenomenon LES MISÉRABLES; the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n’ Roll, TINA – THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL; the Broadway smash-hit musical based on Tim Burton’s dearly beloved film, BEETLEJUICE; the Tony Award®-winning new musical featuring the songs of Bob Dylan, GIRL FROM

THE NORTH COUNTRY; the Pulitzer Prize-winning story of America then, told by America now, HAMILTON; Broadway’s beloved Tony Award®-winning musical comedy phenomenon HAIRSPRAY; and the bittersweet comedy featuring one of the greatest musical scores of all time, FUNNY GIRL.

HAMILTON will be presented by Broadway Dallas at the Winspear Opera House as part of its ongoing collaboration with the AT&T Performing Arts

Center.

All current subscribers will be automatically renewed into the 2023/2024 season. Renewals will be processed on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Single tickets to individual shows will go on sale at a later date. Group pricing is available now for groups of 10 or more. Reserve by calling (214) 426-4768 or emailing Groups@BroadwayDallas.org.

Subscribers can make the most of their season with CenterStage. CenterStage

members enjoy tailored benefits that enhance their experience each time they visit the theater – all while supporting artistic excellence at Broadway Dallas and helping to spread the spirit of Broadway to all corners of our community.

Broadway Dallas strives to impact the lives of children and families through community outreach and education. Broadway Dallas offers year-round performances for diverse audiences of all ages and provides a wide array of arts-driven, equitable programs, such as ConneCTix, Community Spotlight, 212° Connect, and Broadway Dallas’ annual High School Musical Theatre Awards, all of which have been uniquely created to help us share the spirit of Broadway and will continue in the 2023/2024 season.

New podcast miniseries examines America’s right-wing Supreme Court

NEW YORK -- The first episode of “Dissent,” a new Intercept miniseries about our current Supreme Court was recently released. In each of the six episodes, senior Intercept reporter and host Jordan Smith explores the major cases that the Supreme Court is taking up this term, breaking down

the stakes of the legislation and the implications of the court’s extreme right-wing majority. Smith will be joined by legal analysts and experts to tackle cases that will determine the fate of free and fair elections, tribal sovereignty, civil rights protections, the EPA’s regulatory authority, and

whether Rodney Reed, who sits on Texas death row, can pursue DNA testing.

In the first episode: “Tipping the Balance,” Jordan Smith speaks with Jordan Rubin, a legal analyst with MSNBC digital and a former prosecutor for the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. Last year, the impli-

cations of a 6-3 conservative Supreme Court became shockingly apparent with its decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, stripping the right to an abortion. With the Supreme Court’s 2022-

2023 term in full-force, what rights are at stake this year? Smith and Rubin outline the term, discuss why the Supreme Court chose certain cases for its docket, and the major implications

of the ultraconservative supermajority court.

New episodes will be released every Wednesday at 6 a.m. EST and can be streamed until February 22, 2023.

DA, from Page 8

an annual effort spearheaded by the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, in partnership with the Dallas County District Clerk’s Office. The Expo’s purpose is to provide as many qualified individuals as possible with an opportunity to clear their criminal records.

Without the impediment of the expunged offense on their record, they are placed in an optimal position to positively contribute to society, support their family and community, and avoid future incarceration.

This year’s expo would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of The Dallas

County District Clerk’s Office, The Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, The Dallas City Attorney’s Office, The City of Dallas Community Courts, The Texas Offender Re-entry Initiative (T.O.R.I.), Unlocking Doors, and New Friends New Life.

Thanks to the Judges who signed the expunction order this year, 450 people will have a chance to begin again. These include: The Honorable Tina Clinton, The Honorable Hector Garza, The Honorable Lela Mays, The Honorable Audra Riley, The Honorable Dale Tillery, and The Honorable Ernest White

Thanks are also due to

the many volunteer attorneys, law firms, and legal organizations who donated their time and efforts to represent all our applicants. These include: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer, Feld Carter Arnett, The Dallas Bar Association, Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering program, The Dallas County Public Defender’s Office, Jones Day and their partner, American Airlines, Kirkland & Ellis, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Locke Lord Perkins Coie Spangler Law, UNT Dallas College of Law, and Winston & Strawn.

For information about obtaining an expunction outside of the Expo, please visit the Dallas County District Clerk’s website.



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

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

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NEA Challenge America Grant brings celebrated artists to Dallas College Galleries

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Challenge America program is designed to promote equal access to the arts across all communities. Through its Challenge America grant, Dallas College is presenting exhibits by two nationally recognized artists of color who have regional ties. The admission-free exhibits opened Jan. 17 at Dallas College El Centro and North Lake campuses.

"We are pleased to present these two exhibits in support of Dallas College's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion," said Brett Dyer, dean of gallery, theater and live event operations at Dallas College. "We are proud to contribute to the national movement of social justice through exposing and engaging our students and community with exhibitions created by such talented and successful local artists."



"Flowers in the Dirt" exhibit by Curtis Derall Ferguson (Courtesy photo)

Curtis Derall Ferguson's "Flowers in the Dirt" will be on display at the H. Paxton Fine Art Gallery (Bldg. B, first floor) at Dallas College El Centro Campus through March 3. An artist reception will be held Feb. 21, 2023 from 4 p.m. to 7

p.m.

Ferguson earned a bachelor's degree in Art Education/Graphic Design from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and Master of Education from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

na. He currently resides in Cedar Hill, Texas.

"My life is my work, and my work is a direct reflection of my life," Ferguson said, in his artist statement. "I saw a lot of pain and poverty growing up, yet I constantly longed for love, joy and peace. My art became my escape to a 'more perfect world' and paradise. I was fascinated by what the human face could reveal without using words. Eyes, brows, lips, noses, gestures and expressions told of fear, sorrow, pain, joy, excitement, ecstasy, hopelessness and triumph."

Ferguson describes himself as a realist, impressionist and surrealist.

"Ferguson's work 'Flowers in the Dirt' represents an authentic and radical truth about the Black American experience. His use of animated colors amplifies the pain, struggle and joy of the family unit," said Dr.

Giraud Polite, dean of academic affairs, arts and humanities at Dallas College.

Michelle Cortez Gonzales' exhibit "Past Is Present" will be on display at Dallas College North Lake Campus Art Gallery (Bldg. A, second floor) through March 9. She will give a demonstration on March 2, at 10 a.m., followed by a reception from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Also, a Texas-based artist, Gonzales earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Texas at Arlington and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Dallas.

Gonzales is a multidisciplinary artist who works in a range of mediums, including paint, found materials, video and installation. In her artist statement, she said her exhibit is "meant to evoke memories of one's own familial story and encourage empathy and acceptance of others and

self." Her work explores complex sentiments of cultural memory, identity, belonging and domestic labor.

"Gonzales' assemblage of found objects seen in her body of work titled 'Past Is Present,' adorn rhythmic textile patterns, confronting viewers with rich imagery depicting cultural loss and assimilation," said Dr. Polite.

"It is an honor to host these exhibitions at Dallas College. The work of Curtis Derall Ferguson and Michelle Cortez Gonzales will impact our entire community and inspire a new generation of artists. We are grateful for this opportunity and encourage both our Dallas College and the broader Dallas community to visit our campuses and engage with these exhibits," said Ahava Silkey-Jones, vice provost, Dallas College School of Creative Arts, Entertainment and Design.

City of Dallas considers building new skate park in Oak Cliff

In late 2022, District 1 Council Member Chad West learned from City of Dallas Park and Recreation staff that funds may be available for the development of a new skateboard park in the city, based on a needs assessment showing that the city should have approximately 15 skate parks to meet the needs of its population.

The proposed location for the new park is at Westmoreland Park, located within the 75211 zip code at 3601 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas. It is believed to be a good location for the skate park due to its proximity to Lenore Kirk Hall Elementary School, DART bus stops and a train station nearby. It is also near the end of the Five-Mile Creek Trail. Per Jared White,

Westmoreland Park is an underserved park with adequate space for a skate park. Founded in 1952, City Staff confirmed that Westmoreland Park's last upgrade was in 2012, when the custom pavilion was installed for \$215,709.41.

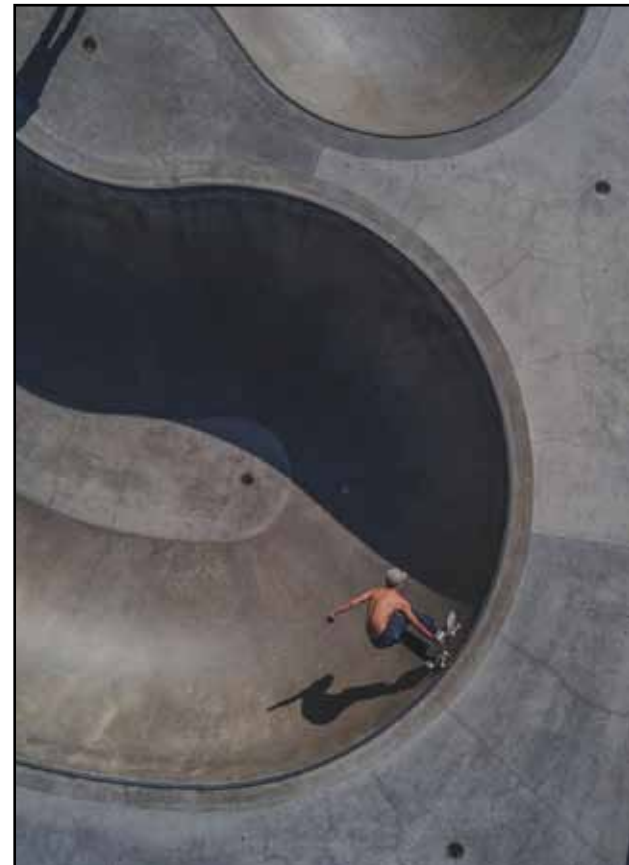
"This park, which is surrounded by homes with hundreds of families, has been long neglected, and it is time the City invests in it," said Huerta.

The city currently has one skatepark, which is located in East Dallas, and it is in the process of building a second skatepark at Bachman Lake. The only operational skate park in the city is Lakeland Hills Skatepark at 2600 St. Francis Ave., Dallas.

District 1 Park Board Member, JR Huerta, and Council Member West met with skate park advocates, including Clinton Haley, to discuss parameters involved in designing and building a skate park. Neighbors, after hearing about the meetings, approached West about helping with fundraising

in hopes of helping West secure the next park in Oak Cliff.

JR Huerta and Jared White, Planning Manager for the Parks, Clinton Haley and consultant New Line Skate Parks recently hosted an in-person community meeting at Martin Weiss Recreation Center in North Oak Cliff and hosted a follow up virtual meeting to gather community feedback. The survey results will be released soon, but skateboard advocates opined on various designs that they would like to see in an 8,000 to 12,000 square foot skate park.



LEE, from Page 1

Jackson Lee scolded. To be convicted of a hate crime in some jurisdictions,

"H.R. 61 simply deals with adding white supremacy to a list of reasons," the Texas

Democrat explained.

She elaborated: "So, when the article states that 'only white people can be charged with' this crime, that's flagrantly false.

"Your argument assumes that only white people can hold white supremacist views and that only certain groups of people can perpetrate violence motivated by

white supremacy.

"I would hope now that your argument would not shift to 'why is white supremacy being added to this law?' That would be egregious.

gious.

"Yes, white supremacy should be added to this law. Why? Because as Director Wray testified, it's a major domestic terrorist threat."

Black Business Journal seeks nominations for its inaugural annual 40 under 40 awards

The Black Business Journal is seeking nominations in Atlanta, Dallas/ Fort Worth, Chicago and San Francisco. Each of these metropolitan areas has been on the forefront of tech and innovation led by young professionals.

The Dallas/Fort Worth Black Business Journal 40 under 40 Awards ceremony is scheduled for March in downtown Dallas. The

awards are given annually to 40 extraordinary local business and community leaders under the age of 40 for their career achievements and community service.

The winners are chosen by a panel of community leaders and peers, who weigh equally business success and civic/philanthropic activities.

A profile story is writ-

ten about each honoree and published in the Black Business Journal special edition. The honorees are celebrated at the annual event. The first 40 under 40 celebration was held in Austin in November 2022. The event was attended by more than 550 doctors, lawyers, technologists, executives – and many more business and community leaders, friends, families and honorees.

The 40 under 40 celebration is presented by Silicon Hills Capital, a venture capital firm committed to providing equity funding to minority founders.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Jan. 30, 2023. Nominees must be under 40 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2023, to be eligible.

To nominate <https://form.jotform.com/223466451675058>.



Tamarcus Brown / Unsplash

Savory Fund adds 6,100 employees in 2022, projects 11,000 additional jobs in 2023

LEHI (Utah) -- Savory Fund, an innovative private equity firm that invests in emerging restaurant concepts, is adding thousands of jobs and boosting communities across the country. In 2022, Savory hired more than 6,100 employees across its 10 brands, as well as more than 50 employees

at the corporate level. For 2023, projections show Savory will hire an astounding 11,000 employees, including more than 100 corporate positions across its portfolio.

This exciting, explosive growth has been elevated by an environment recognized with three Comparably

awards for 2022, including Best Company Culture, Best CEO, and Best Company for Women. The Comparably awards are ranked based on millions of anonymous employee sentiment ratings from over 70,000 companies across the country.

The unprecedented growth is especially notable

in today's uncertain economy where there have been mass layoffs and a looming recession. In addition to employee growth, Savory ended 2022 with promising and powerful partnerships. It acquired The Sicilian Butcher from famed concept king Joey Maggiore in October. And in November, Utah

icon The Larry H. Miller Company acquired the majority ownership of Swig, with Savory Fund retaining a significant minority stake.

"I'm humbled to lead and work alongside our team and am grateful for the recognition," says Shauna Smith, who was named one of Comparably's Best

CEOs. "We strive to create a culture where people feel valued and empowered, and to watch that energy only enhance as we expand has been a truly proud moment. Savory's momentum and success are just getting started, and I'm inspired by our collective force and our future."



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

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Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers

Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com



Check us out on Youtube!

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



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

Costs of construction materials decline steeply, as contractors remain wary

(ACG) -- Plunging prices for diesel fuel, lumber, and steel cooled inflation for materials and services used in construction in December, but relief may be short-lived, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of government data released today. Association officials noted that contractors listed material costs as one of their top concerns in a survey the association released this month.

Still, Contractors are wary prices may rebound soon, with some key components already rising in January, while New Buy American requirements will inflate the cost of many materials, construction officials caution.

“While producer price indexes for construction inputs fell in December, they

still outpaced other inflation measures for the year,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “In addition, some prices have already turned higher in January. Contractors are right to rank materials costs as a major concern for 2023.”

The producer price index for inputs to construction—the prices charged by goods producers and service providers such as distributors and transportation firms—rose 7.2 percent in 2022 despite decreasing 1.8 percent from November to December. The year-over-year rise outpaced the 6.5 percent increase in the consumer price index, which is the best-known measure of inflation, the economist noted.

The one-month decline was driven by falling prices for fuel, lumber, and steel,

while other input costs rose. The producer price index for diesel fuel tumbled 28.7 percent in December, while the indexes for lumber, plywood, and steel mill products declined under 5%. In contrast, the index for ready-mix concrete increased slightly for the month and 13.6 percent for the year overall. The index for architectural coatings like paint also rose slightly in December, with a steep 26.1 percent year-over-year. Other slight increases were found in indexes for copper and brass, and aluminum mill shapes.

Some price declines are likely to reverse soon, Simonson warned. Steel producers have sharply raised prices in recent weeks for hot-rolled coil—the raw material for some construction steel, he noted. Major producers of insulation and tile have also announced price increases for February. In addition, recent spikes in futures prices on commodities markets for copper and aluminum may signal higher costs for these products soon, he said.

Simonson added that more than 1,000 contractors answered the survey

that the association and Sage released earlier in January. Material costs and an economic slowdown or recession were the most frequently listed concerns, with both marked as among the biggest concerns for nearly three out of four firms.

Association officials noted that the Buy America requirements that were part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the confusion associated with the administration’s implementation of the requirement will raise the costs of materials, make it hard for contractors

to find materials to complete infrastructure projects, and lead to delays in completing the work.

“While most construction products are made in the U.S., very few meet the bill’s extremely strict interpretation of American made,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “Limiting the supply of materials available and issuing vague guidance for state and local officials to follow will only make it harder and costlier to complete needed infrastructure upgrades.”

MLK, from Page 8

ship sponsored by Michael and Julia Dulan; Andrea Hilario Aguirre, who was awarded a scholarship by Loretta and Jerome Brister; and Jazzman Pringle and Abdul Opakunie, who were each awarded a Collin County NAACP scholarship.

This breakfast was the first in-person celebration after two years of virtual events.

The annual celebration is organized by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power

Leadership Breakfast Committee. Donations for the MLK scholarship fund are accepted throughout the year through the Collin College Foundation. For more information on making a gift to this fund, call 972.599.3145.


More photos of the breakfast event are available at <https://collincollege.resourcespace.com> and a livestream recording of the event is available at www.facebook.com/collincollege.

INTERNS, from Page 7

18) – focusing on resume development, interviewing, business communication, professional dress and personal goal planning – to be eligible for the Job Fair (Friday, April 21), which attracts dozens of employers. Selected students will receive a formal job offer via email in May. If chosen, students will then complete Intern Orientation and Enrichment training on Wednesday, June 7, when

business soft skills, networking, teambuilding and work-readiness topics will be addressed. Also, Community Service Day will be held in June, when interns come together to volunteer at a local nonprofit.

The program culminates with Mayor Muns hosting an end-of-summer luncheon to honor the interns, employers, partners and sponsors on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Plano Event Center.



McKinney Housing Authority

2023 ANNUAL PLAN & SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2023 fiscal year. Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney

PLAN ANUAL 2023 & ENMIENDA SIGNIFICATIVA AL PLAN DE CINCO AÑOS

REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2023.

Se alienta a los residentes, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones.

Tuesday January 24, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday February 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Thursday March 16, 2023	Noon	Public Hearing	Newsome Homes Community Center	1450 Amcott St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday March 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed ANNUAL Plan and Significant Amendment to the Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or info@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.

Dallas ranks high among major U.S. cities for downtown living

(StorageCafe) -- Downtowns are the soul of a city. It's where activity meets interaction with people and culture.

Given the advantages of moving to an active, multi-use live-work-play environment like downtown, there are some considerable downsides, including affordability, limited housing options, and safety concerns.

Yardi / Storage Cafe found that some downtowns are better equipped to provide an enjoyable urban lifestyle.

To try to determine which downtowns offer the best

combination of apartment options and amenities balanced by cost, their researchers selected the 30 most populous cities in the U.S. and then ranked their central areas against a variety of factors.

Factors considered included cost of living (rent-to-income ratio, cost of groceries), rental inventory, apartment amenities abundance (personal space, green units, unit quality, access to workout facilities), safety, restaurants, cultural and shopping options, access to EV chargers, self-storage, and other factors. With apartments being the

main housing option in most downtown areas, renters had a tendency to enjoy less space compared to people living in single-family homes, which made self-storage also a factor.

The South did well in the research, with Florida and Texas claiming the most gains in net migration in 2021, continuing a decade-long trend, per U.S. Census data. Largely supported by the intense migration, Southern downtown apartment construction offered newer rental supply built in the last 10 years, with a higher percentage of premier apartments, family-

friendly settings, and the best chances to live downtown.

Cities such as Austin, Nashville and Houston are a central part of the Southern boom, offering a desirable mix of top-notch housing opportunities, culture, and shopping downtown. Based on this report, the South occupies almost half of the top ten places for living downtown, with Texas taking three spots in the top ten, including Dallas as number one.

Dallas ranked best in apartments with access to fitness centers (95% of units), personal space in

apartments, and apartments located in luxury buildings, with 81% of units classified as premier apartments. Apartments in Dallas's city center also came out on top for floor space, offering over 995 square feet per person on average. The researchers report, Downtown Dallas's unique range of features and amenities make it the best central area in the country for urban life.

A city that traditionally embraced sprawl as urban

design, it has recently focused on adding density in an effort to increase housing options and foster walkability. This increases downtown's appeal for both locals and new residents, who can now enjoy a mix of lively streets, culture and a reasonable cost of living.

Besides considering which downtowns have the most diverse combination of desirable features,

See DALLAS, Page 14

STAR, from Page 1

explicitly protects the freedom of religious schools to live out their deeply and sincerely held convictions.

A group of activists asked the court to strip that protection away from schools that educate the next generation and advance the common

good. The court correctly concluded that Title IX's religious liberty exemption doesn't violate any of the plaintiffs' claimed rights.

In October 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon allowed three Christian post-sec-

ondary schools represented by ADF attorneys—Corban University, William Jessup University, and Phoenix Seminary—to intervene in the lawsuit and defend the relevant provisions of Title IX, the federal law under attack.

Among other things, Title IX allows students to

use federal financial aid at private religious schools that operate according to their beliefs.

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, parental rights, and the sanctity of life.

CASA, from Page 5

volunteers, David R., is currently serving two young men in care. The 18-year-old brothers have needed support and guidance with time-intensive and tedious tasks like getting their birth certificates, setting up bank accounts and applying for employment. One of them hopes to get his driver's license soon, a task David has agreed to help with.

The young men have come to rely on David R., calling him with questions and seeking his advice. The post-case mentoring program would provide a volunteer like David R. Dallas CASA staff support and oversight if he wants to continue serving the young men once their legal case ends.

A Dallas CASA volunteer is often the only constant in a child's life while they are in foster care, and many youths come to rely on their volunteer as a consistent, caring presence. Many youths whose

cases have closed but are not aging out would also like these mentoring relationships to continue. As the post-case mentoring program expands through the support of the Doswell Foundation, Dallas CASA will be able to address these needs also.

"We see every day at Dallas CASA the incredible difference a caring connection can make for a child in protective care," said Dallas CASA President and CEO Kathleen M. LaValle. "The Doswell Foundation's support for this new program shows vision, commitment and courage. They have laid the groundwork for a program we know will allow more young people to grow into strong and capable adults."

Florence Doswell founded the Doswell Foundation in late 2008 and passed away in 2012 at the age of 100. Since Florence's passing, the Foundation

has continued her "Legacy of Thoughtful Giving," awarding numerous impactful grants supporting deserving nonprofits.

"Dallas CASA's post-case mentoring program caught our attention because of the new way it seeks to serve and support

one of Dallas' most vulnerable populations," said Doswell Foundation Chairman and CEO Beverly Fricke. "Our hope is that through mentoring, these important relationships can continue for young people, offering them more stability and the promise of a better future."

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What Would My Life Be without a Cookie

By James L. Snyder

This past week was about as crazy as they get. When I think it can't get any crazier, somebody hears me and makes it crazier just for me.

One morning I had to go across town to get some office supplies and other things. I try to ensure that when I go, it's for several things, not just one.

The traffic was somewhat crazy. Everybody was driving as though trying to escape some danger behind them. I don't like it when the traffic gets like this. I'm not sure why people drive the way they drive.

I must say, one of the craziest drivers seemed to be somewhat religious. He stuck his hand out the window and pointed toward heaven. Unfortunately, he got the wrong finger. It's the thought that counts.

Hearing a roaring noise behind me; I looked in my rearview mirror and saw a little red convertible zooming up past me, and behind

the steering wheel was an older man looking like my grandfather. He had the biggest smile as he was roared past me. I guess he was living out his teenage years before he died, which could be soon.

Then there was a motorcycle zinging in and out and crossing the double line several times, and he whizzed by me, laughing like he was having the time of his life.

Carefully driving home to avoid getting hit, I began to think about this. Where do these people get their driver's licenses? Perhaps it's an online service, and they don't have to take any driving test. So I would like to get a hold of the person that gave them a driver's license, and shake my finger in his face.

Then I asked myself, who in the world sold a vehicle to these people?

Before I got home, I passed an accident along the way. I guess people don't know that there's a consequence in driving like an idiot.

So again, where do idiots get driver's licenses?

The fact that I got home without any accident was a real blessing.

I was frustrated with all the nonsense on the highways. I come from Pennsylvania, and the most traffic is horse and buggy. So what would it be like if all vehicles, both gas and electric, were banned in our country and everybody had to drive a horse and buggy?

It ain't ever going to happen, but it was at least worth thinking about, as nervous as I felt at the time.

I finally arrived home, parked my vehicle, and went inside. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage met me as I walked in and said, "What happened? You look terrible."

Well, I did look in the mirror that morning, so I did look terrible, but that wasn't what she meant.

I told her about all the crazy drivers I had to deal with driving across town.

"Who," I said to her most

frantically, "gave these people a driver's license?"

She looked at me sympathetically and smiled.

Then I said, "Who in the world sold them a vehicle thinking they could drive?"

She knew I was frustrated and tense with all of this nonsense on the road.

It wasn't anything new, but sometimes things have a way of building up.

I went into the living room, sat in my easy chair, and decided to watch a little TV to calm my nerves. I'm not sure what I was watching; I just wanted to take some time and unwind from the crazy day I had.

Then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a nice hot cup of coffee.

"Here," she said. "Maybe this will calm you down a little."

I smiled and thanked her because nothing calms me down like a nice hot cup of coffee. Whoever invented coffee should get a Nobel Peace Prize.

I took one sip, and I could feel my nerves starting to unravel. How I love a cup of coffee!

Then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did something unexpected. She came in and brought me some cookies.

"Here, these cookies may help you calm down a little more."

She handed me not one but two cookies. This was something that had never happened in my life before.

I sat in my chair, sipped some more coffee, and then gently smelled those cookies. That morning my wife was making cookies for somebody, so the kitchen was full of the cookie aroma. Walking in, I was so stressed that I did not smell those cookies.

The aroma of that cookie seemed to fill me with good vibes, like it was 1969.

I took one bite and began slowly and delicately munching on that cookie. Nothing so wonderful in all the world as a freshly baked

cookie. So I leaned back, closed my eyes, and enjoyed that cookie.

In no time, the first cookie was gone. Then I picked up the second cookie, looked at it with admiration, and began nibbling it.

As I was chewing that cookie, I thought to myself, what would life be without cookies?

In a rather relaxed mode, I remembered what the apostle Paul said. "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain" (2 Timothy 1:16).

It's amazing how God sends people into our lives to refresh us when we seem to be under some kind of stress.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

DALLAS, from Page 13

the researchers highlighted the ones best equipped to care and nurture the environment. To do that, they focused on city centers where apartment living is most earth-friendly. Austin ranked number one for green living, with close to

half of its apartment stock (47%) being located in LEED-certified buildings.

In fact, the second Texas city to make it into the ranking was Austin, which has an enviable downtown and caters to people from all walks of life.

Austin is considered best in green apartment buildings, apartment personal space, and having an educated population. Close to half of the large-scale rental inventory is made up of LEED-certified apartment buildings, making Austin first for eco-friendly downtown living.

Austin also ranked high in personal space, with an extensive 939 sq. ft./person, as it hosts some of the biggest city center apartments in the

U.S. Austin city dwellers were also more likely to live in a high-end unit, with 73% of the large-scale rentals falling in this category.

Other cities in the top ten included Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Nashville, San Diego, Columbus, Ohio, and Phoenix.

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Black History Month



Sister Tarpley
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The month of February is “our nation’s” observation of Black History. The 2015 theme is: “A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture”

It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday in America.

Some people joked, “We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate our history.” This is not just Black History that we are celebrating, not just America’s history, but history of the world.

Many great and useful inventions that are being used worldwide, and that are taken for granted were invented by Black people. The cell phone (Henry T. Sampson and his “gamma-electric cell”) was invented by a Black man.

The first open heart surgery (Vivien Thomas a surgical technician who developed the procedures used to treat blue baby syndrome in the 1940s) to name essential things that are in use today.

Some people think that it’s by pure accident that



A young Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History

some Black citizens, not the same ones that we hear about year after year; have done anything worthwhile.

There are others that easily accept that we have a few famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars; but they are slow to recognize that there are many Blacks that have excelled, and are continuing to excel and invent devices.

They use math and science to make a difference in how we live, work, play and entertain today.

As a retired teacher, I too wish that all history of great magnitude is put in our textbooks, especially Black history, which is American’s history; in spite of what we have been taught.

But wishing it is not go-

ing to get the information in our textbooks on the grand scale that it needs to be (School Districts in Texas and California, they are the largest buyers of textbooks, could insist and get their request granted.

The story of Carter Godwin Woodson, Father of Black History (December 1875 – April 1950, is a captivating and inspiration story in itself.

Dr. Woodson said, “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

When Dr. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of

the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public’s attention important developments that merit emphasis.

He believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country.

Dr. Woodson strongly believed that Black history—which others (even some Black people) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black people to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Prior to “Negro History WEEK,” Dr. Woodson and several of his friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History MONTH.

In 1912 (the year my mother, Cedella Baker De-

mus, was born) Dr. Woodson, received his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of

history.

History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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NDG Book Review: Great childrens' books for Black History Month

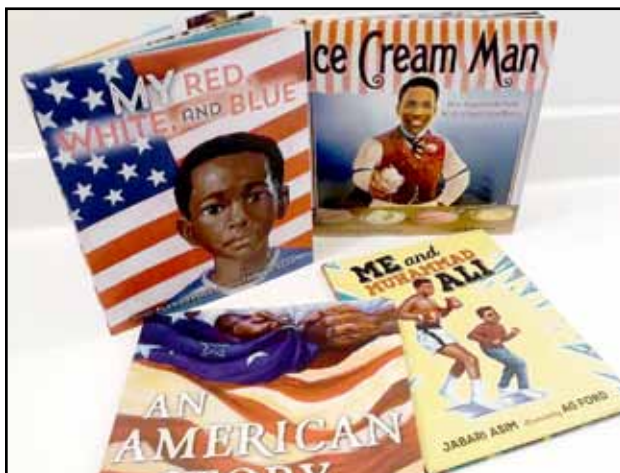
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your parents and your teachers try to tell you about the past.

You like the stories they share, the things your grandparents did and the important celebrities that lived long ago. It's history and it's fun to know, so why not reach for these Black History Month books for kids ages 5 to 8...?

Who doesn't love ice cream? If you do, then you'll love reading "Ice Cream Man" by Glenda Armand and Kim Freeman, illustrated by Keith Mallet (Random House Kids, \$18.99). It's the story of Augustus Jackson, who was born a slave in Philadelphia and worked for a time at the White House, but he never forgot his dreams. Jackson wanted to give everyone a chance to have ice cream, which was then only available to rich people. How could he make the treat and get it to new neighborhoods without it melting into a sticky puddle? Kids will find the answer here.

The child who wants to be like his favorite hero will enjoy "Me and Muhammad Ali" by Jabari Asim, illustrated by AG Ford (Nancy Paulsen Books, \$17.99). Here, young Langston is a big fan of boxer Muhammad Ali, in part because Ali's swagger gives Langston confidence. Like Ali,



Terri Schlichenmeyer / Courtesy

Langston wants to "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee" but a chance to see his idol might fly away like a bird. Then a hero steps in and saves the day. Be sure to read the author's note at the end, for the full effect of this charming tale.

For the kid who wants a wider story with thrilling patriotism, there are two books to look for: first, "My Red, White, and Blue" by Alana Tyson, illustrated by London Ladd (Philomel, \$18.99) is the story of our flag and the time when it didn't seem to represent everyone in America. Once, the flag had a history of scars with the stars and strife with the stripes but all that changed when people began to use their voices. Today, the flag means diversity for all, especially for a brown child who loves the red, white, and blue – and especially for your child, who will love the thoughtful rhyme that makes this

book.

Then, "An American Story" by Kwame Alexander, art by Dare Coulter (Little, Brown, \$18.99) is a tale of freedom, equality, "yesterday's nightmare" and the courage to make today better. It's a story about a story, and how there are times when things aren't fair but people can work to make it better. This is a beautiful book but beware of one important thing: some of the words might be scary for very young children and the artwork, though gorgeous, can be harsh. Read it through once before reading it aloud.

And if these books aren't enough for your storytime, be sure to check with your librarian or bookseller. There are lots more Black History books to bring home and to enjoy with your 5-to-8-year old or for kids of any age, because Black History is American history, too.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records of peoples and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions

of the period being studied.

Even Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a le-

gitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black people; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.

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

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