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Biden renews calls for police accountability in SOTU Address

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

With the parents of Tyre Nichols in attendance for the State of the Union address, President Joe Biden renewed the call for police accountability and the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

The legislation bans chokeholds and no-knock warrants in certain cases, mandates data collection on police encounters and alter qualified immunity for law enforcement officers.

RowVaughn Wells, Nichols' mother, and Rodney Wells, his stepfather, sat attentively during the joint session at the invitation of Congressional Black Caucus Chair Steven Horsford (D-Nevada).

Since the cops in the Nichols case didn't stop other officers from beating him up and they didn't rush to help him, lawmakers have talked about adding a clause that says an officer must stop excessive or deadly force.

After the Nichols killing, eight Memphis police officers were terminated, and five were charged with second-degree murder and other offenses.

The NAACP, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), and other Black-led



During his speech, the president talked about jobs for the middle class, cancer research, the situation of veterans, and making America safer. (Photo via NNPA)

or owned organizations have demanded police accountability.

Led by President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the NNPA is the trade association of more than 238 African American newspapers and media companies in the United States.

"The NAACP is committed to fighting for meaningful change in the way our communities are policed and how the culture of policing can be reformed to prevent any more violent encounters culminating in the murder of young Black men," said Leon Russell, head of the NAACP Board of Directors.

Biden also pledged that the Department of Health and Human Services would increase funding

to recruit future mental health professionals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to expand its Minority Fellowship Program.

He pleaded with Republicans that he wants to work together instead of "fighting for the sake of fighting."

During his speech, the president talked about jobs for the middle class, cancer research, the situation of veterans, and making America safer.

"To my Republican friends, if we could work together in the last Congress, there is no reason we can't work together in this new

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In the wake of the Tyre Nichols case

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People In The News ...



Pamela Dawson



Dr. Jean C. Accius

NDG Quote of the Week: "If the only time you think of me as a scientist is during Black History Month, then I must not be doing my job as a scientist."
—Neil deGrasse Tyson

Pamela Dawson

If you first don't succeed, then you must try again goes the popular adage, and DeSoto High School Choral Director Ms. Pamela Dawson did just that! Today, DeSoto ISD and many across the nation are celebrating with her.

Teacher, mom, grandmother, musician, vocalist, she is everything everyone needs her to be. Known as "Mama Dawson" for the DeSoto High School Choir, she is now known as something else: a Grammy award winner.

Nominated for the sec-



ond time in three years, Ms. Dawson received the 2023 Grammy Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum.

This award recognizes

current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the music education field and demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools. Each year, one recipient is selected from 10 finalists and recognized for their remarkable impact on students' lives.

For the Detroit, Mich., native, this accomplishment is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and mentorship she's provided to countless DeSoto ISD students over the years.

Living a protected childhood as the only daughter

among eight children, she spent a great deal of her childhood at home leaning multiple musical instruments, CBS Mornings reports. She was working in an office until her colleague suggested the role for her, they explained.

"I believe that the Grammy Foundation did a thorough research of what we've provided as far as qualifications to be a finalist," said Dawson about her nomination submission this go-around. "What I spoke about what I pour into my kids, especially this year dealing with mental health, was a deciding factor in me

getting this award. I am so honored that the Grammy Museum and The Recording Academy found me worthy of this honor."

During her 16-year tenure, Ms. Dawson has built the DeSoto High School choir program into a national powerhouse, having traveled and won numerous competitions across the world. Highlights include performing in Carnegie Hall and the Southwestern American Choral Directors Association (SWACDA) national honor choir. Locally, her choirs have been a regular feature for the Dallas Black Dance Theater's

Dance Africa event for many years.

Voted the best community for music education more than six years in a row by the Music Educators Association, DeSoto ISD arts scholars compete and perform at the state, national and international levels annually and have experiences ranging from fine arts inclusive of sketch and sculpture to the choir, dance, band, and theater.

Even several former students are in high-level music programs and performing in venues such as Broadway.

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Dr. Jean C. Accius

(Black PR Wire) ALEXANDRIA (Va.) – Creating Healthier Communities, a national nonprofit that removes the barriers to good health and equity, recently announced Jean C. Accius, Ph.D. as its new president and CEO. Dr. Accius is an influential national executive and thought leader, who now joins Creating Healthier Communities to grow the organization's impact, relevance and revenue.

"I was drawn to CHC's powerful mission and dedicated board and staff team," said Dr. Jean C. Accius.



"It's an incredible honor to join CHC at this significant time, just as the organization has completed a successful evolution to health equity. This is an era of unprecedented opportunity, and I look forward to

continuing to grow CHC's impact, relevance and revenue. Together, we'll break down the barriers to good health and equity and create resilient communities where everyone can thrive."

"After an extensive search over the past six months with an abundance of incredibly strong candidates, we're proud to welcome Dr. Jean Accius as CHC's new president and CEO," said Adam Rothchild, Creating Healthier Communities board chair.

Dr. Accius previously served as Senior Vice President of Global Thought Leadership for AARP, the nation's largest nonprofit

advocating for solutions that advance equity and foster greater health security so everyone can live longer and healthier lives, where he was instrumental in establishing the organization as a global convener and thought leader, elevating bold solutions and innovative programs, and forming strategic partnerships

across industries to scale for impact and accelerate the pace of change. Prior to that, Dr. Accius held senior roles at AARP and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

For more than 65 years, CHC has worked together with partners to address the barriers to good health and equity and create resilient

communities where everyone can thrive.

CHC's role is to enhance the capacity of nonprofit organizations, connect and convene diverse stakeholders, and harness collective resources and programs to activate collaborations that address root causes and improve the health of our communities.

Dr. Gloria Morrow

As CEO of GM Psychological Services and Director of Behavioral Health for Unicare Community Health Center, Dr. Gloria Morrow is one of the nation's leading clinical psychologists.

Dr. Gloria Morrow has spoken around the country on the topic of mental health and life skills topics for women and men.

She has also authored several books and has appeared as a frequent guest on various news networks and a variety of radio shows, including Stevie Wonder's KJLH.

Her work surrounding the role of spirituality in



recovery has gained notoriety with the development of a three-day training and handbook entitled S.A.F.E. (Spirituality and Faith Empowers) to educate the faith community and mental health professionals about the role of spirituality and faith in diverse communities.

The training equips them to engage and collaborate with the faith community and teaches them to overcome barriers to providing spirituality in services.

Serving as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant and a Lead Trainer for the CBMCS (California Brief Multicultural Competency Scale) Training Program, Dr. Gloria Morrow facilitates training relevant to cultural humility and cultural competency.

She is known for leadership and team-building training. She has also served as a consultant for The King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where Bernice King serves as the CEO.

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The Beating and murder of Mr. Tyre Nichols, a Black man, signals time to abolish the criminal injustice system

By Ronald E. Hampton

My name is Ronald E. Hampton, retired D.C. Metropolitan Police Officer, and former Executive Director of the National Black Police Association. As the Convener of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century’s Police Justice and Accountability Task Force, I am facilitating a national and international conversation on the urgent need to radically restructure the concept and practice of public safety and law enforcement with a group of police and criminal justice reform advocates, scholars, former police and corrections officers. The current destructive, death-dealing system that is suppressing, oppressing, brutalizing and killing Black people must be abolished.

I was not at all surprised,

shocked or blindsided by the actions of the Black Police Officers in Memphis who taunted, humiliated and beat Tyre Nichols to death, allegedly for driving “recklessly.” The behavior of these officers and oth-

In addition, this unconscionable incident should cause us to examine the idea that just having Black police officers in the ranks of police departments in this country will prevent or reduce police brutal-

is connecting with Black police officers within police departments to create a network of socially conscious Black officers who will counter the racist blue culture by fighting for restructuring from the inside.

We owe it to the family of Tyre Nichols and all the families that have been traumatized by the loss of loved ones at the hands of killer cops to continue the struggle to abolish the existing racist, corrupt system. This is the mission we will take up at the forthcoming State of the Black World Conference, held April 19-23 in Baltimore during our sessions on reimagining public safety and law enforcement. We are determined to contribute to the struggle for a new paradigm of public safety and law enforcement to really serve and protect Black people!

“...this unconscionable incident should cause us to examine the idea that just having Black police officers in the ranks of police departments in this country will prevent or reduce police brutality and misconduct in the Black community.”

ers on the scene, who were supposed to “serve and protect” the community, is a raw naked manifestation of the systemic and internalized racism within policing which is a mirror reflection of other institutions in our society.

ity and misconduct in the Black community. This is obviously not the case. I say what’s needed is, not “reform,” but a complete restructuring of a corrupt culture and system of policing in America. In the interim, what I do think is important

Key takeaways from the State of the Union address

By Mary Wooley

We applaud President Biden’s focus in last night’s State of the Union address on the progress that can be achieved when members of Congress and the Administration work together to support essential national priorities, including strengthening investment in medical research, science, and technology.

We are grateful President Biden addressed critical public health and research priorities, including cancer, opioid addiction, mental health, and the development of new vaccines and treatments – all priorities identified by Americans as among the most important health issues facing the

nation in a recent national survey commissioned by Research!America.

His touching story about the family of Ava, a 4-year-old who has beaten the odds against a rare kidney cancer, highlighted the immense potential of long-term investment in medical research – including basic research, which is the foundation for both incremental advances in medicine and breakthrough treatments and cures.

We are thankful for the President’s call to meet global health challenges. Viruses know no borders and pose a threat to national and global security. It is imperative we treat such threats as urgent priorities and prepare for them by in-

vesting robustly in relevant R&D efforts.

President Biden highlighted the advances we have made over the past 20 years under the PEP-FAR program – a bipartisan effort led by President George W. Bush that has transformed the global fight against HIV/AIDS – as an example of the progress we can expect when we work together to change the trajectory of a global health threat.

Investment in research is also critical to our economy. In our survey, 91% of Americans agreed it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in science and technology. Last year’s passage of the CHIPS and Science Act is crucial to

ensuring our future economic strength and global competitiveness; now it’s incumbent on Congress and the President to fund the Act’s provisions to ensure we realize its full potential.

We urge the Administration to propose significant funding in its FY24 budget for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies with the expertise needed to advance our S&T leadership, confront deadly diseases, address the ongoing threats of opioid addiction and mental health challenges, and to ensure we are better prepared for future global health threats, wherever they may arise.

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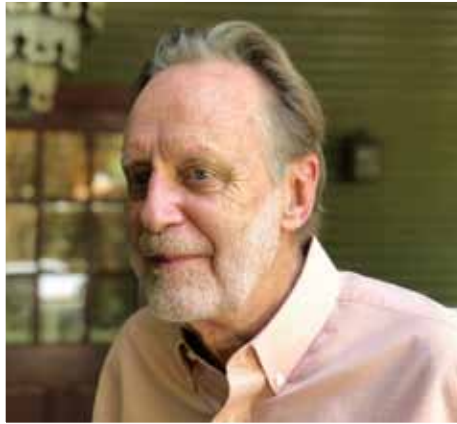
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Presentation on race relations and focus on resiliency and mental health

Dallas College is celebrating the rich and diverse cultures of Black Americans with a month-long celebration this Black History Month. February is traditionally a time to recognize the achievements, excellence, and history of Black Americans as indelible contributors to American culture.

It is also a time for reflection and demonstrated commitment as Dallas College joins in honoring Black History Month's 2023 national theme: "Black Resistance."

"February will be about Black resistance, perseverance, and the journey of triumph," said Dr. Jasmine Parker, senior director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Dallas College. "We honor both perseverance and rest as forms of resistance



Noted Dallas personalities Jim Schutze (above left) and Dallas County Commissioner John Wylie Price will be participating in the Black History Month presentations at Dallas College. (Courtesy photos)

and what people need in order to thrive. Sometimes when people look at Black History Month, they look at the struggle but not the journey to a more just society. Prioritizing mental health, wellbeing and balance addresses a national push for equity and social justice advocacy."

The keynote for this year's Black History activities at Dallas College is noted Dallas political journalist Jim Schutze, the author of "The Accommodation" – a treatise on the history of race in Dallas. His lecture and intimate conversation, *The Accommodation: Journey to Triumph*, will take

place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wed., Feb. 15, at Cedar Valley Campus, Building H, 3030 N. Dallas Ave., Lancaster, with a virtual option for those who can't attend in person.

Dallas County Commissioner John Wylie Price will join Schutze for a discussion about the politics

of race and Dallas' historic and systemic racial divide. Schutze, who worked for the Dallas Times Herald and the Dallas Observer, originally published "The Accommodation" in 1987. Price, a noted civil rights leader, and a commissioner since 1985, wrote the forward for the book's 2021 re-release.

Dr. Parker will moderate the discussion, and a question-and-answer period will follow.

"We hope this offering produces transparent conversations and culturally based learning opportunities in our classrooms, workspaces and other facets of life as we commit to a more inclusive path forward," Parker said.

Copies of "The Accommodation" will be avail-

able for those who attend the live presentation. This event is supported by the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and the offices of the Dallas College campus presidents along with BIG D Reads Foundation.

Black History Month also brings the opportunity to not just celebrate achievements but to advocate for healing and creating access to good mental health. "Nap In: Rest as Resistance" is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Office and will be held virtually.

Counselors at Dallas College are pushing back against the stigma that mental health care is admission

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Black History Month offers opportunities to save lives and 'Be The Beat'

(American Heart Association) — Black or Hispanic adults who experience cardiac arrest outside a hospital setting are substantially less likely to receive life-saving care from a bystander. In low-income Black or predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, scientific studies indicate laypeople are less likely to initiate CPR for people experiencing cardiac arrest, this compared to high-income white neighborhoods.

Devoted to a world of healthier lives for all, the American Heart Association is working to affect change by empowering members of Black and Brown communities to learn lifesaving Hands-Only CPR. During Black History Month and American Heart Month, the American Heart Association is encouraging everyone everywhere to "Be The Beat" for and in their communities by challenging every household or family to have at least one person



Billy Pasco / Unsplash

who knows hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Immediate CPR, an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating, can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest. When seconds matter most, CPR can make the difference in whether your friends and family survive.

But not everyone knows how to perform CPR.

To find a nearby class to take a course to learn the lifesaving skills of CPR, first aid, and Automated External Defibrillator (AED), visit <https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/hands-only-cpr>. Individuals, families and friend groups can also watch a 90-second Hands-

Only CPR instructional video to learn the two steps of Hands-Only CPR:

1) Call 911 if you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse; and 2) Push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute. The easiest way to do that is to do compressions to the beat of a song.

Many people are familiar with the use of The Bee Gees song, "Stayin' Alive" as appropriate rhythm to use when giving CPR. A new CPR playlist for Black History Month features numerous songs by Black musicians and performers, including "Please Don't Stop the Music" by Rihanna, "You Got Me" by The Roots, and "Universal Mind Control" by Common.

The lower rates of bystander CPR in Black and Brown neighborhoods reveal the need for more CPR training in these communities, said American Heart

Association volunteer President Michelle A. Albert, M.D., M.P.H., FAHA, the Walter A. Haas-Lucie Stern endowed chair in Cardiology, professor of medicine and admissions dean at University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. Albert said the research also points to additional need of addressing structural racism and other factors that also likely contribute to these statistics.

Be the Beat is a website for teachers and school administrators that provides free tools and resources for help starting and sustain CPR and AED programs. There is more than one way to Be The Beat. During Black History Month, the American Heart Association is highlighting people who have been and can Be The Beat for and in their communities, beyond learning CPR. Be the Beat Ambassadors are being recognized through a social media campaign as changemakers that have removed

barriers and positively impacted the Black community.

Additional Resources can be found on the American Heart Association (heart.org) website that provide more information on cardiac arrest, heart attack and the importance of lay responder experience in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, Twitter or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.



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What African Americans want most from Congress in 2023

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As 2022 closed, Black Americans saw gains with historic candidates and timely legislation.

President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act and later, the Respect for Marriage Act, which protected interracial marriages.

A slim majority in Congress prevented other significant bills from reaching the president's desk.

As Black History Month begins, there remains key issues that African Americans



The past few years have seen a shakeup in Washington politics. In the coming year, Black voters are looking for results from the incoming congress. (Photo via NNPA)

want to see happen.

A December poll of Black voters revealed that African

Americans want the government to do more to fight white supremacy.

That FBI helped underscore that need when it issued a report noting that

hate crimes disproportionately target African Americans.

With mass shootings continuing at a record pace, gun control remains a hot-button issue for Black America.

Further, many Black voters have suggested strong desires for a comprehensive voting rights package, whether that's in the form of the Freedom to Vote Act, or the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The former would expand mail-in, early voting, and automatic voter registration, while the latter would restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

And, following the brutal murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of five Tennessee police officers, African Americans have continued to voice outrage over the failure of lawmakers to pass the George Floyd Justice in Police Act. While the bill has twice passed the House, the measure has stalled in the Senate despite a Democrat majority there.

The legislation would end qualified immunity, which many believe would greatly curtail the type of police behavior that led to the deaths of Nichols, Floyd, and so many other African Americans.

Seven additional officers facing discipline after Tyre Nichols beating death

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Seven more Memphis police officers are facing discipline in the aftermath of Tyre Nichols' death, according to City Attorney Jessica Sink.

The officers will be given an internal statement of charges, which will inform them of policy violations.

Sink stated that a hearing and written decision will follow.

CNN reported that the action is not criminal in nature, but Sink stated that the final round of charges will be filed this week.

Next week, the agency will hold administrative



Photo via NNPA

nearly a dozen public safety proposals and reforms, as well as question the city's police and fire chiefs.

It was the council's first public hearing since the video of police beating Nichols was released by the city.

January "has deeply affected all of us and continues to do so," serving as a clarion call for action, councilwoman Rhonda Logan said.

"Today our focus will be on peeling back the layers of public safety in our city and collaborating on legislation that moves us forward in an impactful and intelligent way," she stated.

According to an online agenda, the council's Pub-

lic Safety and Homeland Security Committee was set to take up 11 proposals in total, including an ordinance requiring police to only make traffic stops in marked cars, a presentation on a civilian law enforcement review board, and an ordinance establishing a procedure for an independent review of police training.

Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis and Fire Chief Gina Sweat both spoke at the hearing and discussed their future plans for their departments.

The officials also answered questions from council members who were dissatisfied with the answers.

The hearing occurred about a month after Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, was beaten by Memphis police officers from the specialized SCORPION unit after a traffic stop near his family's home.

He was rushed to the hospital and died three days later.

The city released body-camera and surveillance footage of officers repeatedly punching and kicking Nichols while his hands were restrained in late January.

According to the video, they then left him without medical care for more than 20 minutes.

According to a falsified police report, Nichols be-

gan fighting with them and grabbed one of their guns.

His death has reignited calls for police reform and reignited a national debate about policing justice.

Five officers involved in the beating, all of whom are Black, have been fired and charged with second-degree murder.

A sixth officer was also fired, and a seventh was placed on leave. In addition, the Fire Department terminated two EMTs and a lieutenant for failing to provide emergency care.

The specialized SCORPION unit was also disbanded less than two years after it was established.

Biden Administration announces private sponsorship of refugees program

WASHINGTON -- The Biden administration recently announced a new program that allows U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor an individual to enter the United States as a formal refugee. This program, called the Welcome Corps, complements the traditional U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) by permitting people to join together in minimum groups of five, to sponsor a new refugee. As part of this process, they will have to raise \$2,750 per refugee, pass back-



Robert Paul Jensen / Unsplash

ground checks, and create a support plan.

Under the current USRAP program, individuals granted refugee status outside the United States can only enter the country

through a formal refugee resettlement agency, which helps arrange shelter, food, and employment assistance for newly arrived refugees. However, refugee resettlement agencies only operate

in specific areas and are still operating at limited capacity after the Trump administration's move to slash refugee admissions to their lowest in history.

The new private sponsorship program will permit individuals to enter the country even in areas where there are no active refugee resettlement organizations. Unlike parole programs such as Uniting for Ukraine, individuals who enter through this program will have formal refugee status and will be eligible for a green card within a

short period of time. The Biden administration hopes to admit at least 5,000 refugees through this new process during the rest of Fiscal Year 2023.

Says Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, American Immigration Council, "The United States Refugee Admissions Program has long been a source of pride, protecting people from persecution while helping strengthen communities across the country. Now, the Biden administration is stepping forward to help everyday Americans take

part in welcoming refugees through a private sponsorship model to increase this country's capacity to support the most vulnerable. The American Immigration Council applauds the administration's innovative initiative and urges similar policies going forward that demonstrate a commitment to humanitarian protection. As the nearly 200,000 sponsorship applications through the Uniting for Ukraine program showed, people in the United States

See REFUGEES, Page 13

Area university announces automatic admission to every Class of 2023 graduating senior at DeSoto High School

A partnership between the University of North Texas at Dallas and DeSoto Independent School District will award the entire senior class at DeSoto High School with automatic admission into the university.

Students in the DHS 2023 graduating class were presented the announcement facilitated by UNT Dallas' Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions Luis Franco in partnership with representatives from the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees, DeSoto ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Usamah Rodgers and DeSoto High School Principal Jasen Campbell during a special called class meeting during school on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the campus' Fred Nickels Auditorium.

"Life is about options and choices," said DeSoto ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Usamah Rodgers regarding the opportunity as she addressed students.

Rodgers went on to say, "Dallas County is a tale of two cities having some of the highest economic wealth in the United States and some of the highest poverty."



Courtesy photo

Rodgers explained that that most family-sustaining jobs require a post-secondary degree or credential and that most people who reside in Dallas County who are between 25-34 don't have a postsecondary degree or credential meaning they don't have access to employment opportunities that are family sustaining.

"Today's announcement ensures that 100 percent of you have a fighting chance at making a family-sustaining wage so that you can access what it is you want to have in life--choices and options."

UNT Dallas has in recent years ranked as on one of the top universities for lowest student debt held by graduates--a barrier to eco-

nomonic progress and mobility for many young adults.

During the presentation, UNT Dallas representatives celebrated the school's ability to "excel at serving first generation college students and propelling graduates towards economic mobility." The university also pointed out that 98 percent of Hispanic students graduate with "no or manageable debt" compared to 92% as based on the state average and that 90 percent of African-American students graduate with "no or manageable debt" compared to the state average of 79 percent.

The university extended the opportunity to DHS seniors under the Trailblazer Express program which is

a partnership between the university and selected high schools. It is designed to provide a seamless pathway to a bachelor's degree while removing barriers to college access and the college application process.

In 2020, the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees approved Board Goals which have focus on four key areas of student achievement:

- College, Career and Military Readiness,
- Early Literacy,
- Early Numeracy,
- and Individualized Growth.

Under the district's goals for CCMR, which have evolved since their 2020 development, the Board aspires for the district to increase the percentage of high school students who graduate college, career and military-ready from 36% (May 2019) to 62% by May 2025. Under this goal, the DeSoto ISD utilizes the following goal progress measures to assess growth in this area:

- the percentage of juniors and seniors who receive a college-ready score in both reading and math on college entrance exam;

- the percentage of high school students who earn college credit by successfully completing such coursework;

- and the percentage of students earning industry-based certifications by graduation.

"The Board of Trustees set college, career and military-readiness goals that measure our students' college-readiness and DeSoto ISD has great programs in place to support that progress," said Rodgers. "Our goal is to ensure that every student that graduates from DeSoto ISD has a plan for life that helps them create opportunities for their families so that they can break barriers and cycles and pursue the American dream."

DeSoto ISD Board President Dr. DeAndrea Fleming encouraged students to lean into the opportunity presented by UNT Dallas "to change the trajectory of their lives."

"This is a breakthrough," said Fleming. "Use this moment to take a step forward and change your life for the better by taking a chance on yourself."

Under the UNT Dallas

Trailblazer Express partnership, DHS Seniors are assigned a an admissions counselor who is positioned to support students' engagement in the opportunity from start to finish.

As part of the presentation, students were invited to attend the university's April 1 Trailblazer 360 showcase and open house, an opportunity for prospective students and their families to tour the campus, learn about programs and activities including study abroad opportunities and participate in giveaways including scholarships.

DeSoto High School students will receive a physician and electronic letter regarding the admissions opportunity and process from UNT Dallas in the near future.

DeSoto ISD continues to work closely with area industry and collegiate partners to create, enhance and expand learning and curricular offerings for district students--an extension of the district's Triple-A Experience, a holistic and well-rounded educational approach rooted in Academics, Arts and Athletics.

History beneath the surface: Immersive art exhibition explores America's buried past at AT&T Discovery District

The Mount Experience made its Dallas debut, uncovering African American ancestry via visual art and augmented reality.

As efforts to restore Black cemeteries and burial sites increase across the country, DFW native Rodney Hawkins, a third generation Texan, leveraged the movement to create a pathway to ancestral discovery with the restoration of the Old Mount Gillion Cemetery in Nacogdoches, Texas.

The cemetery's rebirth, which Hawkins has coined "The Mount," served as the foundation for a new immersive experience that

made its debut in Dallas during MLK Day weekend in partnership with AT&T Discovery District.

The Mount Experience exhibition, which seeks to uncover America's buried past through a combination of photography, augmented reality, audio recordings, and visual installations created by Black Dallas artists. The exhibition is the product of a year-long renewal of Old Mount Gillion, all led by Hawkins and his family.

"This project started as a way to not only explore this nation's painful past, but also reclaim my family's

legacy. I can trace my familial roots in Texas all the way back to the 1800s, but that's a privilege that most Black Americans don't have due to the destructive effects caused by slavery," explained Hawkins. "It's so important that our ancestors are honored, so it seemed fitting to launch this experience on a weekend that commemorates our history through the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

A former producer at CBS News, Hawkins's journalism career put him on the front lines of some of the country's foremost stories about race relations and

social justice. These events served as the catalyst for Hawkins's deep dive into his own heritage, which is rooted in East Texas on nearly 100 acres of family-owned land — another rarity for many African Americans.

Stationed in Texas' oldest town, the journey to restore the roughly 200-year-old overgrown and forgotten Old Mount Gillion Cemetery that borders his family's acreage began in 2020, quickly morphing into a multi-generational exercise in self-discovery as Hawkins's family members flew to Texas from across

the country to assist with the renewal. Additional support came from the local community.

The restoration, which has since received a designation from the Texas Historical Commission, was chronicled in a 3-part series for CBS Mornings with Hawkins reporting on location in conjunction with Gayle King, Tony Dokoupil and Nate Bulerson from 2020 through 2022.

Simultaneously, Hawkins partnered with Ghanaian American photographer Kwesi Yanful to document the experience. Yanful's photography was later

showcased during a month-long show in Dallas Arts District at Daisha Board Gallery titled "The Mount: A Photo Collection on Restoring America's Buried Past."

That show set the stage for the forthcoming Mount Experience, which opened to the public on Saturday, January 14th and will continue through Black History Month.

Produced by Tiny Hawk Productions, Hawkins's full-service production company, and in collaboration with AT&T and

See HISTORY, Page 10

McKinney residents mull airport expansion in bond election

MCKINNEY – The McKinney City Council voted to call an election when voters are to consider one general obligation bond proposition and three Council seats. The move would lure commercial air service to the area. The general and special election is scheduled for May 6. Early voting takes place April 24–May 2.

A bond committee made a recommendation to the McKinney City Council to call for a \$200 million bond package for future development at the McKinney Na-



Anna Gru / Unsplash

tional Airport and capital projects outlined in its master plan.

City Council has made maximizing the development potential of McKinney National Airport one

of the six pillars of the City Council Goals and Strategies. City Council approved the airport's long-term master plan in 2018. The goal of a master plan is to provide the

framework needed to guide future airport development that will allow the airport to keep pace with aviation growth and demand cost-effectively while also considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

General Obligation Bond Election

McKinney voters will cast ballots “for” or “against” the proposition. General obligation bonds are funds borrowed by the city for specific public purposes. Authorization to borrow must be approved

by voters and are repaid with property tax revenue.

Proposition: “The issuance of \$200,000,000 general obligation bonds for the city’s airport facilities and the imposition of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.”

City Council Election

Voters will elect representatives for one At Large seat plus the District 2 and the District 4 seats. For individuals interested in learning more about running, the Candidate Packet is available online

at <https://mckinneytexas.org/139/Elections>. Hardcopies of the Candidate Packet are available upon request from the City Secretary at City Hall, 222 N. Tennessee St. The deadline to file is Friday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m.

For additional voting information, visit www.mckinneytexas.org/vote.

For more information on the commercial terminal project at the McKinney National Airport, visit [www.FlyTKI.com/commercial]www.FlyTKI.com/commercial.

Murphy Community Emergency Response Team classes can help people become life savers

Registration is now being accepted for the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes which start immediately. Unlike previous classes, the 8-week session is designed in a self-paced, online format combined with two in-person sessions, according to Murphy Fire Marshal Perry Elliott.

The self-paced classes begin after two in-person information sessions where applicants may get more information and ask questions of CERT officials. These are set for Sunday, Feb. 5 from 3 to 4:40 p.m. and repeated on Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Both will be held in the Murphy Fire Rescue Training Room, 206 North Murphy Road.

The public is encouraged to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity whether to serve the community as part of Murphy CERT or to gain the skills and knowledge necessary during emergencies. The combined online/in-person format is specifically designed to accommodate busy schedules.

To successfully complete the course and receive cer-

tification, participants must complete the online classes and attend two in-person sessions, where they can ask questions, and have the opportunity to practice and demonstrate the required hands-on skills. Instructors will use these sessions to gauge participants’ progress. Successful completion of the online classes and the two in-person sessions qualifies participants to submit to a final skills demonstration. Successfully completing the final will result in certification.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, residents of Murphy and, to be part of the active team following certification, must pass a background check. More information can be obtained by attending one of the information sessions, or by visiting the Fire Department page at www.murphytx.org, by calling (972) 468-4300, or sending an e-mail to cert@murphytx.org.

Applicants may register online until Monday, March 13 by visiting <http://www.murphytx.org/289/CERT-APPLICATION> or the Murphy Fire Department page at www.murphytx.org.

Garland NAACP Hosts 22nd Annual Winter Ball

February 17, 2023 - 7:00 PM

*“Recognizing African American
Health Care Professionals”*

**Hyatt Place Hotel
5101 N. President George Bush Hwy.
Garland, TX 75040**

**The Evening Includes:
Dinner - Live Entertainment
Introduction of Honorees
Dancing - Photo Booth**

Tickets: \$60.00 (Tables Seat 8)

**Make your check payable to: Garland NAACP.
Mail to: Garland NAACP (c/o Gwen Daniels)
PO Box 460944, Garland, TX 75046-0944**

Or, click the link below and purchase on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/22nd-annual-winter-ball-tickets-507090921597>

NOTE: Ticket sales end February 14, 2023 @ 9:00 PM

Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experience in World War II

Irving Archives & Museum recently opened a new special exhibit called “Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II.” On display through April 14, 2023, the exhibit illustrates how hopes for securing equality inspired many to enlist, the discouraging reality of the segregated non-combat roles given to black recruits, and the continuing fight for “double victory” that laid the groundwork for the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Produced by The National WWII Museum, the exhibit features artifacts, photographs and oral histories to highlight some of the extraordinary achievements and challenges of African Americans during World War II, both overseas and on the Home Front.

In the years before World War II, African Americans in many parts of the country were treated as second-class citizens. Discriminatory practices were condoned by the government, and African Americans were systematically denied many rights and liberties by laws that kept them in positions of inferiority.

Due to the landmark Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme



Newly-minted second lieutenants at Fort Benning, Georgia, in May 1942, (Courtesy photo / National Archives)

Court decision in 1896, the United States was a nation where “separate but equal” was law in many states. In addition, many military leaders declared African Americans unfit to serve in combat. However, once the war began, thousands rushed to enlist, determined to fight for freedom, while still being denied equality at home.

Through a myriad of interactive experiences, visitors will discover the wartime stories of individual service members who took part in this journey of extraordinary challenge, from unheralded heroes to famous names, including Alex Haley (US Coast Guard); Sammy Davis Jr. (US Army); Benjamin Davis, Jr. (US Army Air Forces); Medgar Evers (US Army) and more.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is an original eight-minute video about the famed 332nd Fighter Group (better known as the Tuskegee Airmen), who in many ways became the public focus of African American participation during the war. The piece is narrated by television personality Robin Roberts, whose own father flew with the Tuskegee Airmen during the war.

Including personal accounts from members of the 332nd Fighter Group, the video provides an overview of how their success in battle became a great symbol of bravery, helping refute notions that African Americans were inferior performers in the military, especially in roles requiring advanced training.

The exhibit will feature two medals representing

the seven African Americans who were awarded the Medal of Honor in 1997, the bittersweet result of a long investigation by the US military on discriminatory policies in the awarding of combat medals. The exhibit will also provide in-depth coverage of lesser-known events and service, such as that of the USS Mason, the first American ship to have a predominately African American crew.

Lieutenant Colonel William Holloman III recalls his leader Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.’s encouragement: “He said, ‘America’s watching you.’ He instilled in us a pride that I don’t think was there before we went in the service.”

A national advisory committee, including the late Dr. Clement Alexander Price of Rutgers University, was commissioned to help frame the exhibition. The committee, led by co-chairs Dr. John Morrow of the University of Georgia and Claudine Brown of the

Smithsonian Institution, helped advise on the exhibition’s narrative arc and content.

Advisory Committee for the exhibit includes Co-chair Dr. John Morrow, History Department Chair, University of Georgia, Co-chair, Assistant Secretary for Education and Access, Claudine Brown, Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Dan Haulman Chief, Organizational History Division, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Dr. Clement Alexander Price (deceased) Former Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University, Dr. Raphael Cassimere Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of New Orleans, and Dr. Charles Teamer Director Emeritus, The Amistad Research Center, Tulane University.

Irving Archives and Museum (IAM) excites visitors with its permanent exhibition on the history of Irving, temporary exhibitions and a Smithsonian Spark!Lab

where adults and children alike create, collaborate, explore, test, experiment, and invent.

Also housed at IAM is the city’s archives, allowing the discovery of Irving’s history through access to documents, photographs, maps, films, and more. The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world – why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today – so that future generations will know the price of freedom, and be inspired by what they learn. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America’s National WWII Museum, it celebrates the American Spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifices of the men and women who fought on the battlefield and served on the Home Front.

For more information and for a scheduling of upcoming events, visit nationalww2museum.org.

Family of double amputee killed by police pursuing lawsuit

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The family of a double amputee shot and killed by police officers on Jan. 26 has taken the necessary preliminary steps to file a lawsuit against a Southern California city.

NBC News reported that the lawyer for Anthony Lowe’s family, Christian Contreras, has asked the city to show all surveillance footage of the incident and name the police officers involved.

Contreras called the inci-

dent a “straight murder.”

“A disabled man, double amputee, murdered by the police department officers, and we’re here making demands. We’re not making requests. We’re making demands,” Contreras said at a news conference on Feb. 2.

Viral video of the incident has angered many on social media, particularly given the January murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of five police officers in Tennessee.

Police claimed Lowe, a Black man who lost his legs in 2022 and was without prosthetics, stabbed a

46-year-old man before they stunned Lowe and shot him to death.

Social media posts show grainy footage from a cellphone that shows Lowe, whose legs were amputated at the knees, fleeing his wheelchair and climbing along the pavement while being pursued by officers with their guns drawn.

In an interview, Ebouneque Simon, mother of Lowe’s 15-year-old son, argued that her son’s father did not constitute a substantial threat, and police

See POLICE, Page 9

DOING THE RIGHT THING

“The time is always right to do what is right.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community’s abused and neglected children living in foster care.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

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Friday, Mar 3 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Friday, Mar 24 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this event, please visit dallascasa.org

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North Texas Irish Festival celebrates Celtic culture in Dallas's Fair Park

The North Texas Irish Festival returns to Dallas's Fair Park March 3-5, bringing with it all the music, dance and culture that this exciting, family-friendly event in the rich tradition of Irish and Celtic culture.

One of the largest Irish festivals in the U.S., the North Texas Irish Festival is a family-friendly event featuring live music, dancing, storytelling, chef demonstrations and more on multiple stages, indoors and outdoors, in Fair Park. Guests will also enjoy horse shows, sheepherding demonstrations, beer and whiskey tastings, genealogy research opportunities, animal rescue groups, shopping, child-friendly entertainment, and free arts and crafts for the kids. This indoor-outdoor festival takes place rain or shine.

"It's music, it's food and drink, it's dance, it's people connecting with each other," said Sheri Bush, president of the Southwest Celtic Music Association Inc., the non-profit organization that produces the North Texas Irish Festival and provides music and dance scholarships to local students. "There truly is something for everyone here. The volunteers who put their heart and soul into this festival are excited to share it with everyone."

The largest cultural celebration in DFW, the North Texas Irish Festival is produced annually by hundreds of volunteers, some



of whom have volunteered for decades, often alongside generations of their families.

Also returning this year is the North Texas Irish Festival Fun Run, a jaunt through the beautiful grounds of Fair Park on Saturday, March 4, at 8 a.m. This family-friendly fun run is perfect for runners or walkers of any age or ability, and also for dogs! All registered participants will receive a T-shirt, a "bottle opener" medal, one ticket to the North Texas Irish Festival, and two beers after the run if they are of legal drinking age. This non-timed 5K fun run will benefit Friends of Fair Park and the Southwest Celtic Music Association. More information and a link to registration are available here.

Music, dancing, whiskey tastings, horse displays, Celtic storytelling, animal rescue groups, Shepherd's pie, Irish stew, fish and chips, dozens of activities for kids and child-friendly

entertainment, and chef demonstrations are all found at this family-friendly festival.

Music

The roots of the North Texas Irish Festival are in its celebration of music. This year, the North Texas Irish Festival will feature performers including national headliners Sliabh Notes, The Logues, Rory Makem, Moors & McCumber, and Celtic Aire, the premier Celtic and folk ensemble of the U.S. Air Force; and regional performers 5 Second Rule, Behan, Beyond the Pale, Boxing Robin, C. Michael Price, Cleghorn, Colin Urwin, Emerald Accent, GoldRing, Jiggernaut, KinFolk, Plunk Murray, Reel Treble, River Driver, Slugger's Rule, Sombati, The Selkie Girls, The Whalers, Threadneedle St, Tuatha Dea, Tullamore, Vintage Wildflowers, and Wolf Loesch.

Dance

The rhythmic magic of Irish step dancing is en-

chanting to watch and to tap your toe right along with. Celtic music will come alive in the steps of dancers of all ages, including those from The McLane School of Irish Dance, Maguire Academy of Irish Dance, Inishfree School of Irish Dance-Dallas, McTeggart Irish Dancers of North Texas and the Shandon-O'Regan Irish Dance Academy, who will delight audiences. Irish step dancers perform on a dedicated dance stage and also with musical performers throughout the festival.

Chef Stage

Chefs doing their own modern take on traditional Celtic fare, or using traditional ingredients in new ways, delight audiences who love to learn and

sample the fare on the chef stage. And don't miss special mixology demonstrations on Friday night!

Kids

Urchin Street at the North Texas Irish Festival is a special place where kids can find entertainment, education, play and fun, including crafts, music, dance, storytelling, magic and mystery. Storytellers -- or "Shanachie" -- will tell traditional Irish stories in the way that the Irish learned of their history for hundreds of years.

Pets

The North Texas Irish Festival is pet-friendly! From dogs to rabbits, cats and even a squirrel or two, guests bring leashed pets to the festival to enjoy indoor and outdoor festivities. Need a new best pal? Animal rescue groups at the North Texas Irish Festival are happy to introduce you to animals to see if you might have a new "fur-ever" friend.

Hours, Admission and Location

Gates open on Friday evening, March 3, at 6 p.m. Hours are 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday; 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4; and 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

on Sunday, March 5.

Admission is FREE on Friday from 6 to 7 p.m.; \$15 after 7 p.m. A one-day ticket is \$25 on Saturday or Sunday at the gate, while a weekend pass is \$45. Discount tickets are available at area Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores for \$20 for a one-day ticket. Children under 6 are FREE when accompanied by an adult family member. Seniors over 65 or current military members (with valid military ID) receive \$5 off all gate prices. Pets are allowed in on a short leash. Leprechauns (in full ceremonial dress and carrying pot of gold) are FREE.

Tickets are available online at www.NTIF.org, at Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores, and at the gates on the days of the event.

Parking is available in and around Fair Park, or guests can take the DART (take the Green Line!) to the front entrance of Fair Park and the North Texas Irish Festival. Detailed directions and parking tips are available at www.ntif.org. The public can call (214) 821-4173, or visit www.ntif.org for more information or to volunteer to work at the festival.

PERRY, from Page 2

should not have fired any shots.

"I just feel like they could have done something else," Simon argued. "You can tell he was in fear for his life. He had no legs. It could have been handled any other way."

She said their son has struggled with Lowe's death. "My son broke down yesterday, asking God can he just get one more time, one more time, with his dad," she said.

Contreras says that he first filed a notice of claim,

a necessary step in the legal process, before he could sue Huntington Park, a city with 53,000 people not far from downtown Los Angeles.

Officers in Huntington Park's 1900 block of Slau-son Avenue claimed they saw a man with a butcher knife about a foot long.

A police report said that the man ignored verbal orders and threatened to move forward or throw the knife at officers.

"Officers deployed two separate tasers in an attempt

to subdue the suspect, but the tasers were ineffective," authorities wrote.

"The suspect continued to threaten officers with the butcher knife, resulting in an officer-involved shooting."

The incident underscores the urgency of transforming police culture and accountability. The deaths of Nichols and Lowe have refocused attention on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas plans to reintroduce after the State of the Union address on Feb. 7.

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Film Review: 'Knock at the Cabin' might please some die-hard fans

By Dwight Brow
NNPA Film Critic

(**) Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. For some reason veteran hor/thr director M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*) has decided to put a lot of bad juju vibes out into the world. If you're curious, read on.

It's an unusual premise, but so what. Four strangers (Dave Bautista, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Abby Quinn, Rupert Grint) think really bad things will happen. They feel they've been called to stop catastrophes, natural disasters, carnage—and are convinced their mission is noble beyond reproach: "... the most important job in the history of the world." The only way to stop the impending apocalypse is to ask a couple (Ben Aldridge, Jonathan Groff), who have a child (Kristen Cui), to make a huge life-or-death sacrifice. The messengers of gloom beg, plead and manipulate. Says one: "I don't have a



Dave Bautista and Kristen Cui costar in *Knock at the Cabin*. (Image via NNPA)

scar, but if you look inside, you will see that my heart is broken." So what?

The confrontation occurs in a remote wooded area in Pennsylvania. The menacing quartet knocks on the door of what is called a "cabin," but looks more like a fancy wooden structure that would rent for a fortune in Bucks County. The married twosome is gay, which is about as forward thinking as the multicultural cast of interlopers. The casting doesn't feel necessarily exploitative, more like a reflection of life.

However, the script, by Shyamalan, Steve Desmond and Michael Sherman, does over extract from the male/male subplot with way too many flashbacks. Background sequences include apprehensive parents, a gay bashing incident and the loving adoption of their Asian daughter. None of it adds much depth to the story, and the frequent lookbacks don't reveal anything an audience couldn't already fathom. Also, if this film had stayed in the moment and chronologically developed the narrative bit-by-bit, minute-by-minute,

it might have sustained momentum for a full 1h 40m (editor Noemi Katharina Preiswerk). It does not.

For horror fans hunting for the newest realm, forget it. Life here on earth is all you get. For sci-fi fans hoping for incredible special effects, a gigantic water plume is the only visual device of interest, and that's an old trick. There is tension. There is bloodshed. Not like that in a gory slasher film. More in a generic thriller way dotted with repulsion as characters fight for their lives or bite the dust like champs.

It's noticeable that the camera lens likes to be intrusive, especially in the opening scenes. Closeups on the little girl as she collects grasshoppers and a stranger who approaches her are from mid forehead to chin. It's an odd device that doesn't draw you into the characters. It's just invasive enough to make you

notice the technique.

Interiors and exteriors (production design Naaman Marshall), cinematography (Jarin Blaschke, *The Northman* and Lowell A. Meyer, *Servant*), costumes (Caroline Duncan) and props (Robbie Duncan) don't stand out. If anything, Herdis Stefansdóttir's heavy bass musical score drones in a way that sounds like a whale dying and it is effective.

As the two dads, Aldridge and Groff have the toughest roles, trying to pull the audience into their plight, standing strong and wavering at moments like any human would who is in shock. Aldridge has the meatier role and manages to add texture to the dad character whose history of trauma carries the most emotional weight. The four strangers are played by actors who largely don't distinguish themselves. Except Bautista, who gets

the most screen time and seems a bit deeper than the rest. But he was far more impressive in *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*.

Why would any responsible parent put their impressionable kid in a sadistic movie were people are mutilated in front of a little girl? Even if the actress was sheltered from the gruesome stuff, just partially knowing what the film is about has got to be weird for her psyche. She's a tiny, undeveloped person, how is she supposed to process the plot? Someday when Kristen Cui sees this film as an adult, she might want to ask her parents: "What the ---- were you thinking?"

The common denominator for most movies is a protagonist fighting an antagonist or evil until there is a winner. If audiences are expecting that clear distinction or a fitting, cata-

See CABBIN, Page 11

HISTORY, from Page 6

Samsung, the pop-up exhibition will serve as this season's AT&T Showcase and completely expand on "The Mount's" impact. Stationed inside of the "AT&T Showcase" Space at 208 S. Akard Street, The Mount Experience will transform the sprawling lobby of AT&T Headquarters into the piney woods of East Texas using a combination of photography, augmented reality, audio recordings, and visual installations. Attendees will experience everything from an immersive cemetery entrance powered by Samsung to an overview of uncovered lineage and tombstones.

In addition to Kwesi Yanful's photography, complementary works from Dallas-based artists T'Ria Hurd and Trevor Donaldson will also be on display.

In "Connecting Your Roots to Find Your Voice,"

equity expert Arthur Woods moderates as panelists Rodney Hawkins (Award-Winning Journalist, Filmmaker) Marc Morial (President of National Urban League), Michelle Robinson (Chief Diversity Officer AT&T) and Mary Elliot (Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture) discuss the holistic benefits of connecting to your history.

Other contributions include educational research by Dr. Eric Bing (Genealogist, Researcher, Physiatrist, Epidemiologist, and Professor at Southern Methodist University), Dr. Perky Beisel (Archaeologist, Cemetery Restorer, Historian, and Professor at Stephen F. Austin State University), and Kyle Anisworth (Archivist, Researcher, Lone Star Slavery Project Creator and Spe-

cial Collections Librarian at Stephen F. Austin State University) rounds out the exhibit.

The Mount Black Art Pop-up: In tandem with The Mount Experience Exhibit at AT&T Discovery District, TME will also celebrate Black History Month by highlighting three emerging Black Dallas-based storytellers and artists through a series of pop-up exhibitions from February 16th-19th.

Featured artists and galleries will be announced at a later date. The Mount Experience is free of charge and open to the public seven days a week: 8 am-8pm; Saturday, 10am-2pm; and Sunday, 12pm-6pm at AT&T Showcase, 208 S. Akard Street. The exhibition will officially close on Tuesday, February 28th with hopes of inspiring many more Black Texans to research and reclaim their own family legacies.



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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(and "Like" us)

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

Plano Mayor kicks off 10th annual Summer Internship Program

Mayor John Muns this week kicked off the 10th year for its Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program. The event, held at Plano I.S.D. Academy High School, marked the beginning of the internship program, which connects students from Plano's award-winning and nationally recognized school district with some of the area's top corporations and nonprofits.

Plano Mayor John Muns, Plano ISD Superintendent Dr. Theresa Williams, and other community leaders gathered to kick off the annual event, which celebrated a decade of prepar-



Plano I.S.D.

ing the future workforce for success. 22 intern alums and Academy High School students Emily Vo and Christopher Newton, Academy High School Principal Catherine Gaschen, and representatives from Capital One and JPMorgan

Chase, also attended the event.

Speakers at the event encouraged businesses to sign up by April 1 for invaluable initiative that provides high school students with paid jobs at top companies and nonprofits. The event

included visuals from the school's robotic team, interviews with interns and "candy heart" visuals depicting the top 10 reasons to love the program and

Presented by Capital One, the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program is an eight-week program, which offers remote and on-site placements, or a combination of both. The program runs June 12

through Aug. 4 (although some start dates are flexible). Students earn a minimum of \$12 per hour working 20-40 hours per week.

Since the program launched in 2014, approximately 780 students have received summer employment. Additionally, thousands of students have benefited from the internship prep training provided prior to the Job Fair each year.

Mayor Muns continues to recruit new companies, from small and mid-sized organizations to large cor-

porations, so that more motivated teens will have a chance at this life-changing experience. Recruitment for businesses to sign up is underway through April 1.

Businesses can participate in several ways – by sponsoring an intern at their workplace, underwriting an intern at a nonprofit or government agency, or becoming a program sponsor.

The deadline for students to apply is March 6. Learn more and sign up at plano-mayorsinterns.org.

CABIN, from Page 10

clysmic climax in this existential film about choosing between family or humanity, think again. The footage leads to a disappointing ending, though one not nearly as egregious as that

in the source book, Paul Tremblay's horror novel *A Cabin at the End of the World*.

Shyamalan fans will follow him off a cliff, into a tsunami or a cabin in the

woods.

Why? He takes them there because he can. Not because he should.

In theaters February 3rd.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrown-Ink.com.



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February 1, 2023


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

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NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL

March 3-5, 2023 • Fair Park, Dallas, Texas

Celtic Aire • Moors & McCumber • The Logues • Rory Makem • Sliabh Notes

NTIF.org • 972-943-4616

Four cities recognized by Air North Texas for environmental awareness

The Air North Texas Partner Awards were announced at the January 12 Regional Transportation Council meeting in recognition of partners' efforts to improve the air we breathe throughout the 2022 ozone season. Four cities – Grand Prairie, Denton, Irving and Dallas – were recognized for their dedication to a cleaner North Texas.

The City of Grand Prairie was named 2022 Air

North Texas Partner of the Year. Grand Prairie used a comprehensive approach involving social media, website content, advertising and traditional newsletter articles to encourage residents to help improve air quality through involvement with Air North Texas. For example, the city's website contains a renovated page informing visitors about the importance of air quality and how to re-

duce air pollution in North Texas. The page provides links to Air North Texas content, including air pollution alerts, which inform subscribers when ozone levels are forecast to be unhealthy.

In addition to advertising efforts, Grand Prairie, which has taken home Partner of the Year six out of the past seven years, used community events to spread the word about

cleaner air. The city attended and hosted 14 community events attracting over 4,000 people, participated in various Clean Air Action Day activities for staff, industries, and the community and encouraged participation from employers through the Clean Air Industry Challenge.

The City of Denton won two awards, being recognized for Outstanding Outreach and its use

of campaign mascot Arlo the Airmadillo in its promotion of improved air quality. The city's sustainability staff participated in 13 events drawing more than 2,500 people. Among them were National Night Out and a welcoming of incoming freshman college students to Denton for the 2022 school year. Staff discussed Arlo and Air North Texas at each of the city's outreach events. Arlo's

Corner was a new addition that welcomed passersby at outreach events and encouraged them to "meet Arlo." These interactions prompted natural conversations and helped the city take home the Arlo Ambassador Award.

The City of Irving won the award for Outstanding Advertising. Irving informed residents about air

See AIR, Page 13

SOTU, from Page 1

Congress," Biden commanded.

"The people sent us a clear message. Fighting for the sake of fighting, power for the sake of power, and conflict for the sake of conflict get us nowhere.

"And that's always been my vision for the country: to restore the soul of the nation, to rebuild the backbone of America: the middle class, to unite the country. We've been sent here to finish the job."

The president also spoke passionately about his economic plan, which includes "investing in forgotten places and people" and "building an economy where no one is left behind."

Biden plans to call an end to the COVID-19 emergency in May, and during the State of the Union, he painted a positive picture of the country's economic recovery.

He also assured those in need that he understood their predicament.

"Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades, too many people have been left behind or treated like they're invisible," the president stated.

"Maybe that's you watching at home. You remember the jobs that went away. And you wonder whether a path even exists anymore for you and your children to get ahead without moving away. I get it."

The president described America's story as one of

"progress and resilience."

"We are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than when we entered it," he asserted.

"That is what we are doing again. Two years ago, our economy was reeling. As I stand here tonight, we have created a record 12 million new jobs – more jobs created in two years than any president has ever created in four years."

He continued: "Two years ago, COVID had shut down our businesses, closed our schools, and robbed us of so much. Today, COVID no longer controls our lives. And two years ago, our democracy faced its greatest threat since the Civil War. Today, though bruised, our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken."

Biden stated that his economic plan focuses on investing in forgotten places and people.

Too many people have been left behind or treated as invisible during the past four decades of economic upheaval, according to the president.

"Maybe that's you watching at home. You remember the jobs that went away," he remarked.

"And you wonder whether a path even exists anymore for you and your children to get ahead without moving away. I get it. That's why we're building an economy where no one is left behind. Jobs are

coming back; pride is coming back because of the choices we made in the last two years. This is a blue-

collar blueprint to rebuild America and make a real difference in your lives.

Finally, the Democrat

appealed to the GOP.

"To my Republican friends, if we could work together in the last Con-

gress, there is no reason we can't work together in this new Congress," Biden said.



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.

Hutchins hosts law enforcement career fair

The City of Hutchins will be presenting a career/job fair to recruit new police officers. The organization seeks recent Police Academy graduates and high school or college graduates who are interest-

ed in serving their communities as law enforcement officers.

Multiple agencies from Dallas County, Collin County, Kaufman and Hunt County will be present to speak to individuals

interested in law enforcement as a profession and to recruit both certified and non-certified individuals who are ready to serve and become the future of the Law Enforcement profession.

The City of Hutchins Career/ Job Fair will take place on Feb. 18, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, located at 550 W. Palestine St., Hutchins 75141.

U.S. companies expect more hiring in the first half of 2023

(PRNewswire) -- Despite market volatility, companies across the country have plans to hire early this year and are scrambling to staff up, research from talent solutions and business consulting firm Robert Half shows. Their online survey included responses from 2,175 managers with hiring responsibilities in finance and accounting, technology, marketing and creative, legal, administrative and customer support, and human resources at companies.

Survey, of more than 2,000 hiring managers, 58% of respondents anticipate adding new permanent roles during the first half of the year, up from 46% six months ago. Another 39% expect to hire for vacated positions. Managers in technology (64%) and finance and accounting (62%) have the greatest full-time staffing needs.

The survey indicates that good hires are still hard to find. While many companies are eager to hire, 9 in 10 managers said it's challenging to find skilled professionals, on par with results

from the prior State of U.S. Hiring Survey. Employers also reported it can take up to 11 weeks, on average, to hire for an open position, up from 7 weeks in 2021.

Despite recent layoffs by several major companies, including Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, hiring is expected to pick up toward the beginning of the year. "Hiring tends to pick up at the beginning of the year, as budgets have been approved and teams seek additional support for initiatives that will drive business growth and customer retention,"

said Paul McDonald, senior executive director of Robert Half. "As job openings and turnover remain high, employers need to play offense — and be prepared to negotiate — in order to recruit and retain skilled talent."

The trend to utilize contract work is expected to continue, with more employers leveraging contract talent this year. According to the research, 72% of managers plan to hire more contract professionals in the first half of 2023, compared to 45% six months ago.

REFUGEES, from Page 5

want to step up and support refugees. But while the Uniting for Ukraine program provides only temporary relief for Ukrainians fleeing the war, people sponsored through the new

program will enter the United States with formal refugee status, allowing them to stay permanently."

With the ambitious goal of resettling 125,000 refugees each year, the Biden

administration has so far fallen short of the target. If the administration provides the needed funding and resources, this new process may help the administration reach the important goal, while being more responsive and transform-

ing the way the U.S. treats refugees around the world, said Robbins. Robbins said that in the coming weeks, it is hoped faith groups, non-profit organizations, and individuals will come together to support refugees who flee persecution.

DAWSON, from Page 2

All in all, what does she hope her students can take away from her winning this award?

It is not about her. "What I think my students really realize now is that what I've been doing has always been for them and not about me," she said.

Dawson's Grammy award represents excellence and dedication in music and arts education—a staple in the DeSoto ISD's Triple-A experience centered on providing holistic and well-rounded K12 education experiences founded on multifaceted and multi-layered academics, arts and athletics programs.

last three graduating classes have obtained roughly \$15M in college scholarships on average—the result of expansive Career and Technical Education, STEM and early childhood education programs rooted in developing literacy and numeracy skills in young learners.

Athletically, the district maintains high-performing sports programs that produce a regular and consistent cadence of scholars advancing to compete at the collegiate and professional levels. Across district history, DeSoto ISD has earned more than 20 state titles including the 2022 football title; the 2021 and 2022 girls' basketball titles and a host of titles in girls' track.

"DeSoto ISD is proud to acknowledge the work of Ms. Pam Dawson in her

attainment of this recent achievement," said DeSoto ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Usamah Rodgers. "Her commitment to excellence and positive im-

pact on students' lives is demonstrative of what makes this such an amazing school community—the embodiment of the DeSoto difference."

AIR, from Page 12

quality through regular email blasts, including on high ozone days. Irving also posted Clean Air Action Day and ozone messages to its social media platforms. Additionally, Mayor Rick Stopfer and the City Council issued a Clean Air Action Day proclamation.

Finally, the City of Dallas received the award for Outstanding Initiative for the second consecutive

year. The city's Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability continued its cooperative program with the Dallas Public Library through the Earth Day Every Day program. Each month, OEQS worked with the library to offer an online presentation of an environmental topic. Several presentations focused on topics related to air quality.



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Ugly Isn't For Sissies

By James L. Snyder

Over the years of marital bliss, we've not had many disagreements. She likes broccoli. I like Apple Fritters. We've never been able to come to any agreement with that. But, outside of that, everything has been rather smooth.

There's one controversy that has plagued our house for the last few years, and

there doesn't seem to be any solution. There are some problems with no solutions, and I guess this is one of them.

The controversy I have is about my bathroom mirror; each of us has our bathroom with our own mirror. My mirror has some very significant issues with it.

For several years I have suggested that we replace my old mirror with a new

one. Once, I even suggested I would be glad to pay for the new mirror out of my Apple Fritter account, which was a mistake.

When I said that, she looked at me with a long pause and then said, "You have an account for Apple Fritters?"

I knew I was in trouble for that; I guess I kissed my Apple Fritter account good-

bye. The controversy I had is that my old mirror portrays me as some old guy. I find it rather frustrating because I have some pictures of myself, and I don't look old at all.

As we discussed this, she said, "My mirror portrays me as I really am." She smiled one of her sarcastic smiles at me.

"Let me," I said, "go and

look in your mirror to see if what you're telling me is really true."

I entered her bathroom and was surprised as I looked in her mirror and saw some old guy looking back at me.

Immediately I went out and said, "Hey, who's that old guy in your bathroom?"

She laughed and said, "I think it's you, but all I ever see is some old lady."

"I am not that old," I demanded.

I then went and got our family photo album, brought it back, opened it up, pointed to a picture, and said, "See, that's me."

She looked at the picture, then back at me laughingly, and said, "Yes, that's you when you were in high school."

See SNYDER, Page 16

Negotiating with a Moose

By Daris Howard

We live a couple of miles from the river and a couple of miles in the other direction from land run by the Bureau of Land Management. Between the two, the deer and antelope roam. Well, not so much the antelope, but lots of moose. Our place is a favorite stop-over for moose who like to help us harvest our apples. I don't mind too much since we usually have extra to share. But sometimes, they decide it is all theirs and don't want to share with us. That is kind of what happened this week.

On Friday, I needed to be at work early. I had an annual interview with my supervisor, and I had a few final things to prepare. But when I came out to drive to work, there was a moose

sleeping under the pine tree by the driver's side of my pickup.

I thought I'd move slowly and carefully and try not to bother him. No such luck. The minute I moved toward the door of my pickup, he jumped to his feet and whirled to face me. He lowered his ears, and I knew it was time to retreat. I moved to the other side of the pickup and thought I would climb through from the passenger side. Then I remembered that door didn't open from the outside.

I couldn't just take the day off when I had an important meeting. I decided it was time to negotiate. For my part, I started yelling at him and waving my arms, trying to look big and scary. I hoped that for his side of the exchange, he would leave. Negotiations

are never one-sided, and his proposal was that he would chase me and that I would be the one to go. He won that round because of his strong position and bad disposition, and as he came after me, I dashed back to the house.

I got my shotgun, but not wanting to hurt him too much, I retrieved some rubber bullets that the Department of Fish and Game gave me for such purposes. I loaded one in the gun and put a second one in my pocket. I walked toward the moose, stopping at a safe distance. He looked at me like he dared me to come any closer. I fired off my first negotiating shell. He looked stunned for a minute, like he couldn't believe I would do that. I quickly loaded the second round.

He again proposed to

chase me and have me run. I fired the second shell, and once more, I had to concede to his superior bargaining position. He chased me all the way back to my house, stopping at the stairs leading onto our porch.

I ran inside and slammed the door, not sure if he was going to follow me in. I was now sure I was going to be late for my meeting, so I grabbed a couple more bargaining shells. I opened the door, but not too much. He was only about ten feet from me. I aimed toward his back end so I wouldn't hit anything vital, and I fired.

At that proximity, my

bargaining chips had more force than they had from the distance I had kept between us previously. I saw a puff of fur that then fell to the ground. It was about the same amount as when my older brother decided to give me a haircut when I was three and he was five.

The moose finally accepted the strength of my argument, turned, and trotted away. He didn't run too fast. He seemed to want to ensure I knew that he would be back for another meeting if I ever let my guard down. And speaking of meetings, I hurried to my pickup and barely made it to my interview in time.

As for the moose, he set up camp away from the pine tree by my pickup and instead made his home at my old milking shed. I can live with that. He can stay there and eat all the apples he can dig out of the snow, as long as he doesn't chase anyone else in our neighborhood.

After all, the best negotiations occur when both sides are willing to compromise a little.

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

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Black History Month Continues...



Sister Tarpley
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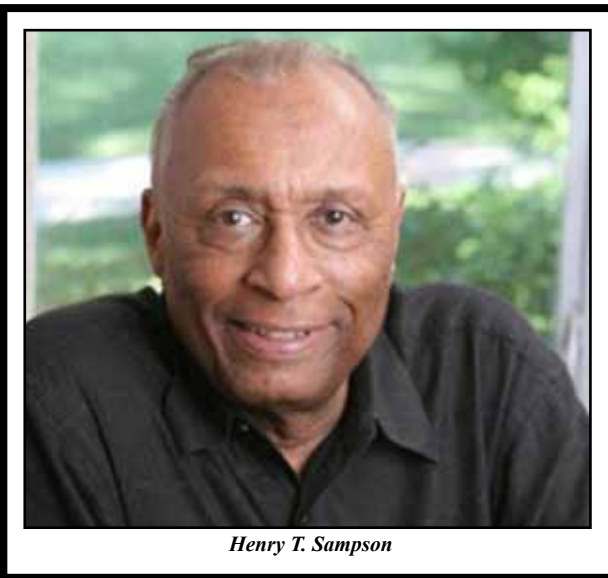
This week I will highlight Dr. Henry T. Sampson, the Black man who invented the Gamma-Electric Cell that brought us the cell phone that the world can't seem to do without it.

Everyday I am amazed, as I am sure Mr. Sampson is, of the improvements of the cell phone and its many uses.

When I traveled to Hong Kong, China, it seems that everybody there had a cell phone; and all that you have to do is look around you and you will see the majority of people, adults and children of every kind with their own cell phone.

I love to tell my version of how Mr. Sampson came up with the idea of the cell phone. One day he was trying to get in touch with his wife, who had left home to go shopping, to no avail.

After several hours, he thought to himself, I can do better than this! And, he invented the Gamma-Electric Cell and the "cell phone" was born. From that point on he talked to his wife when ever he had a need to communicate with her.



Henry T. Sampson

Forth-four years ago, on July 6, 1971, Henry T. Sampson invented the "gamma-electric cell", which pertains to Nuclear Reactor use.

According to Dr. Sampson, the Gamma Electric Cell, patented July 6, 1971, Patent No. 3,591,860 produces stable high-voltage output and current to detect radiation in the ground.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1956. He went on to the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated with a MS degree in engineering in 1961; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a MS in Nuclear Engineering in 1965, and a PHD in 1967.

Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones, which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio signals.

Before this time, mobile telephone service in the United States, consisting mainly of car phones, was extremely limited because metropolitan areas had only one antenna for these purposes.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigned only 12 to 24 frequencies to each area, which meant that only that many calls could occur at a time.

These limitations often meant a wait of up to 30 minutes for a dial tone and

a five to ten year waiting list just to acquire the service. With the invention of cellular phone service in 1983, personal communications no longer depended on wires.

In the 1990s it would become possible to connect to the Internet from virtually anywhere in the world using a portable computer and a cellular modem with satellite service. Technologies that developed from different fields, such as personal communications, computation, and space exploration often worked together to serve the constantly evolving human needs of the information age.

Henry T. Sampson worked as a research Chemical Engineer at the US Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California. 1956-61. Henry T. Sampson then moved on to the Aerospace Corp, El Segundo, CA.

His titles include: Project Engineer, 1967-81, director of Planning and Operations

Directorate of Space Test Program, 1981-, and Co-inventor of gamma-electric cell.

He holds patents related

to solid rocket motors and conversion of nuclear energy into electricity.

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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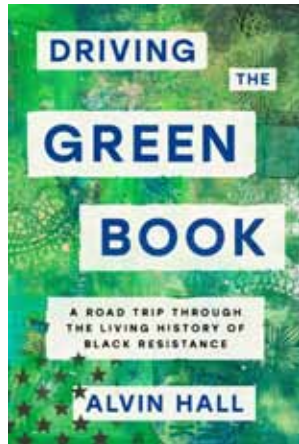
NDG Book Review: 'Driving the Green Book' is a lesson in resistance

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The gas tank is full of fuel.

The tires are new, you checked the oil twice, the speedometer's calibrated, your headlights are intact, all good. The vehicle's not flashy, so there's absolutely no reason to attract attention. And yet, as in "Driving the Green Book" by Alvin Hall and as your ancestors did, you sweat that all-day roadtrip.

In 2015, while doing research for a podcast, Alvin Hall discovered something that intrigued and surprised him: one of his sources mentioned The Negro Motorist Green Book. Grant-



ed, when he was small, his family didn't travel much from their home on Florida's panhandle but still – how did Hall not know about that book? Surely, his aunts had one, right? How did The Green Book escape notice by his and

other generations, when it was such an essential part of Black America for decades?

Needing to know, and needing to understand what it was like to "drive the Green Book," Hall and two younger colleagues took a roadtrip after the podcast was done. They started in Detroit and traveled through small towns and cities, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, Birmingham and Montgomery, Jackson, Mobile, ending in New Orleans, which was the approximate route a northern-living, Jim-Crow-escaping Great Migration worker might have

taken on an annual trek to visit kin back home in the South.

That route, as Hall points out, could've been uncomfortable, at best, or dangerous, at worst.

Not all gas stations, restaurants, or hotels welcomed Blacks; some places actively chased them off with threats or more. The Green Book, "small and thin" and meant to be tucked inside the glove box, changed all that with a guide to help the Black traveler find safe accommodations, fuel, and places to avoid.

With the latter in mind, Hall and his fellow travelers took to the road, and

while they drove, they separately wondered if they'd be stopped by a policeman.

An adult man and two younger women – they could handle a stop like that today, right?

So what was DWB like in 1945?

Also relevant: how far have we come? That question, a ton of relevance, and a small whiff of threat accompany every mile that author Alvin Hall writes about, and in "Driving The Green Book," we're taken along for that ride.

Maybe you've seen the movie or read about The Green Book elsewhere, but those things pale in comparison to the stories Hall

tells. These are tales of making do in embarrassing ways to avoid jail, of sleeping on concrete, of driving as an act of defiance, and of being warned to leave town or else. These authentic tales, told by experts and those who "lived" the Green Book, are like punches to the gut, but they aren't surprising. They're shocking but not unexpected. "We're still living it," says Hall, and that's just plain sobering.

Readers who love to travel will want to tuck this in their carry-on or console. If there's a bit of quiet activism inside you, "Driving The Green Book" will fuel it.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

He also pioneered a study of internal ballistics of solid rocket motors using

high-speed photography. He was also a producer of documentary films on

early Black filmmakers and films, was a member of the board of directors of Los Angeles Southwest College Foundation, and a techni-

cal consultant to Historical Black Colleges and Universities Program.

Sampson's Awards and Honors: Fellow of US

Navy, 1962-1964. Atomic Energy Commission, 1964-1967. The Black Image Award from Aerospace Corp, 1982. Blacks in En-

gineering, Applied Science; and Education Award and Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers, 1983.

RACE, from Page 4

of weakness.

"Everything we do is about how we take care of ourselves," said Dr. Curtis Hill, a licensed counselor at Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus. "Rest is a mental health resource. This is

about the quality of life – even more so for people of color. You have the societal challenges of seeking help but there are people who will not see a counselor."

He applauds Dallas College for taking the lead and

setting up counseling hubs at each campus.

"Our mental health is grounded in stress, anxiety and depression. It's not just police violence. We understand what a microaggression is. It's a small way of belittling. For a young person, that can be over-

whelming," he said. "Microaggressions can reduce someone to isolation and depression and undermine their self-confidence."

But optimal mental health care is available and can become a way of life, Hill said.

"This is an important mo-

ment to focus on balance and good mental health. Your life matters and so does your mental health. Erasing the stigma around mental health allows individuals to become whole and should be as common as going to a doctor for physical ailments. We hon-

or rest," he said.

To attend in-person or virtually, you must pre-register.

For a list of all Black History Month events at Dallas College, please visit the African American/Black History Month events calendar at Dallas College.

SNYDER, from Page 14

I flipped a few pages and said, "There I am."

"That's our wedding picture," she said with a smile.

By that time, I was just a little bit frustrated. If I look at those pictures and then look in the mirror, I do not see any resemblance whatsoever. How can that old rascal in the mirror be me?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage could see that I was just a little bit discouraged. After all, pictures don't lie, but I think mirrors do.

"Don't you realize that as we grow and get older, our looks change?"

Looking at her, I was shaking my head and unwilling to reach her level of understanding.

"But," I complained,

"I'm not that old looking, am I?"

Then she handed me a more recent photograph. It was me holding my granddaughter on the day of her birth. I looked at it as though I was looking out for the first time. When I first looked at it, I didn't see myself; rather, I saw my great-granddaughter.

After looking at it for a few moments, I sat back in my chair and sighed deeply. "So, I am an old man."

"Well, my dear, you're not young anymore."

I stared at her for a few moments and then said, "Tell me, why do you look so good, and I look so old?"

"Because you're not looking in my bathroom mirror."

"Maybe," I said, "we could change bathroom mirrors?"

She started laughing and a few moments later, I joined her in laughing.

This was the first time I ever seriously looked at myself.

In the morning, when I go to the bathroom to comb my hair, shave, and brush my teeth, I ignore what's in the mirror. Maybe I ought to.

Thinking about this for a bit, I had a thought. Does it really matter how old a person looks? After all the only cure for not getting old is dying.

I've noted lately that some of these Hollywood stars get facelifts, tummy tucks, and all sorts of changes to their body. I wonder if they do that for themselves or for the public that's looking?

Does it really matter how a person looks?

I believe the next time I'm in my bathroom, I'm going to have a little chat with that old guy in the mirror. I will say, "I don't care how old you look. You don't scare me." I had to rehearse that line a dozen times to get it right. I'm not sure I can trust that old guy in the mirror.

Of course, one of the great benefits is that I don't have to see how I look through-

out the day. The people on the other side of my glasses have that to handle.

I have learned to appreciate what God said to Samuel in, 1 Samuel 16:7, "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

God does not judge me by my outward appearance, but by my heart. If my heart isn't right with God nothing else really matters.

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