



North Dallas Gazette

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Biden brokers deal for fair and peaceful Nigeria election

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Nigerians held their presidential and parliamentary elections on Saturday, February 25. After eight years with a flailing economy under former President Muhammadu Buhari, the nation may be the most vulnerable it has been since it became a democracy in 1999, said KERA. Observers report violence, intimidation, and disenfranchisement, and in some areas, the voting has been delayed for days. Many see the delays as a general failing of the Electoral Commission, as the main opposition parties call for a rerun, they report.

President Joe Biden had declared that America wanted a peaceful and fair election in the western African nation. He helped broker a peace deal that political parties and candidates in Nigeria's presidential election signed last week.

By signing the accord, the parties and candidates committed to accepting the election results that the independent National Electoral Commission will announce. They've also agreed to a peaceful transfer of power.

"Elections are a fundamental part of a functioning democracy, and all Nigerians deserve this



Biden recently helped to broker a peace deal that political parties and candidates in Nigeria's presidential election. (Photo via NNPA)

chance to choose their future freely and fairly," Biden stated.

"While the United States does not support any single candidate or party, we strongly support a peaceful and transparent process that reflects the will of the people of Nigeria."

Biden also encouraged Nigerians to use their freedom of speech to make their voices heard, including young people who may be going to the ballot box for the first time.

Eighteen candidates were vying to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari, including former Vice President Atiku Abubakar (Peoples Democratic Party), 76, the main opposition candidate; Peter Obi

(Labour Party), 61, whom media reports suggest is popular among young voters; and Bola Tinubu, 70, the ruling party (All Progressives Congress) candidate.

As votes continue to be counted, KERA reports Progressive Bola Ahmed Tinubu is leading with 39% of the vote, followed by Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party and Peter Obi of the Labour Party, respectively.

More than 93 million people have registered to vote in the contest, and about 176,600 polling stations have been set up across the country. Some of these stations are in places where people have been

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Pursuing MLK's beloved community

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Obesity Week highlights need in community

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Oldest Black publishing co. hit by flood

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Dallas ISD continues to make us proud

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Ant Man crawls into theaters nationwide

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People In The News ...



Esther Roundtree-Johnson



Tinuke Fawole

NDG Quote of the Week: "Whatever is bringing you down, get rid of it. Because you'll find that when you're free . . . your true self comes out."
—Tina Turner

Esther Roundtree-Johnson

MIRAMAR (Fl.) / 24-7PressRelease -- Esther Roundtree-Johnson, AFC, has been inducted into Marquis Who's Who. The founder and general manager of Young Excellent Scholar Academy(dba), an initiative she began in 2016 to impart financial wisdom to local students and local citizens in underserved communities, Johnson has followed her passion for educating others to achieve financial success, developed as a teacher at Miami Dade Public Schools.

Ultimately, Mrs. Johnson



son shares her expertise by working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Lotus House Women's Shelter. She also collaborates with Miami-Dade County Government,

Children's Trust, Barry University, faith-based organizations, and financial institutions.

A productive career in real estate set the foundation for Mrs. Johnson's current role. A former real estate agent and real estate investor since 1985, she worked for the federal government for approximately 16 years while performing her real estate duties. She also served as an assistant housing manager (contracting officer) in the United States Coast Guard.

Esther credits persistence, determination, and a sense of purpose for her

professional and personal success. She persists in writing and publishing diverse guides for a broad readership.

Ultimately, her faith in God has given her a passion for helping community citizens and children achieve prosperity through financial education. Mrs. Johnson is engaging and educating children and families with financial tools to build wealth because she was able to overcome poverty. Ahe is passionate about giving underserved students hope to think prosperously and to dream big.

Mrs. Johnson works

closely with her husband as the executive director of 93rd St. Community Development where she has initiated many social services programs since its inception in 1999. She was instrumental in partnering with Miami-Dade County Housing Department and Atlantic Pacific Communities to build affordable housing to underserved citizens—a \$163,000,000 million project for low-income families. Currently, she plans to implement an education center (commercial space) for low-income families that was provided to the 93rd St. Community

Development from the Miami Dade-County Government.

Esther brings vital credentials to her position, including the Association of Financial Counseling and Educational Planning (AFC), and the Minority Business Enterprise Certification (MBE), Micro Business Enterprise (Micro). Mrs. Johnson's academic accomplishments are impressive and include a Master of Christian Counseling and a Bachelor of Professional Studies from Barry University, which

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Tinuke Fawole

ATLANTA, (24-7PressRelease) -- As an immigrant parent of four children and child welfare law attorney, Tinuke Fawole knows the struggles that children of immigrants go through — struggles their parents usually remain unaware of.

In her recently released TEDx talk that garnered more than 30,000 views in just three days after its recent release, Fawole has struck a chord by delving into the conflicts that often arise because of generational differences and dif-



fering expectations.

Fawole, who emigrated from Nigeria and settled in Atlanta, in the 14-minute video, shares three distinct ways in which immigrants unwittingly silence their children's voices. She also

discusses the damage that results and how parents can support their children better.

Children of immigrants often experience confusion over their identities, she says. Are they Jamaican or American? Are they Indian enough? Will they be mocked because of their hard-to-pronounce and spell names? Will their parents let them study what they want or saddle them with the expectation that they must be doctors, lawyers, engineers or other professionals? Are the children free to date and marry

outside their culture or will they experience pushback?

Fawole encourages parents to listen with greater empathy to what their children are trying to tell them so that children will more freely share what is going on in their lives.

Fawole's talk was given at a TEDx event using the

TED conference format but independently organized by a local community.

Tinuke Fawole is the author of The Immigration Gap; Bridging the Divide Between Immigrant Parents and Their Children (Optimum Publishing). She is a former state prosecutor, a relationship coach and an

international speaker who travels the world giving workshops and seminars for organizations, companies and conferences. Fawole is an expert in helping immigrant parents navigate the challenges of parenting and the host of the Optimum Families YouTube channel.

Ken Frazier

PALO ALTO -- (BLACK PR, BUSINESS WIRE) -- Former Merck Chairman and CEO, Ken Frazier, has been appointed to chair the board of directors of Transcarent. This addition to the board is a formative milestone for Transcarent, a health and care experience company that makes it easy for people to access high-quality, affordable care.

Frazier is a tireless advocate for social justice and economic inclusion. Frazier co-founded and currently serves as co-chair of OneTen, a coalition of leading organizations committed to upskilling, hiring, and promoting one million Black Americans who lack



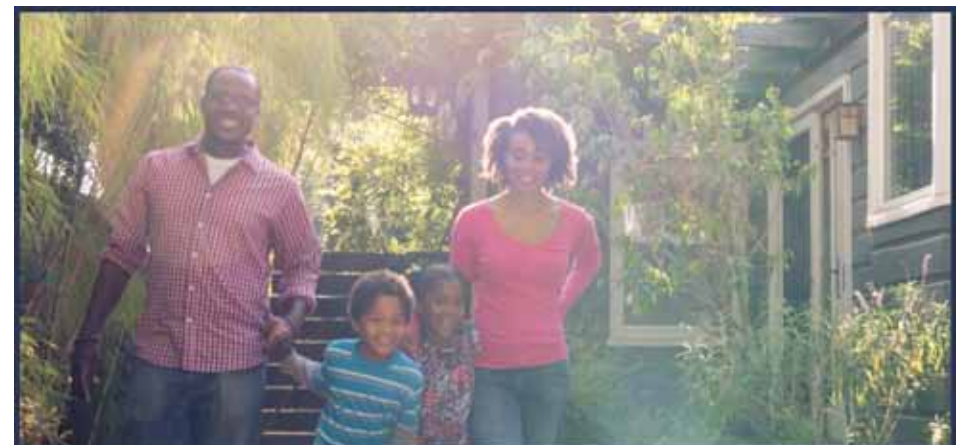
four-year college degrees into family-sustaining jobs, of which Transcarent is a member. OneTen is committed to facilitating a meaningful, measurable, and lasting impact on our nation's goal of equal opportunity.

"I'm not sure there is a problem more pressing than the accessibility and afford-

ability of health and care to the average American worker," said Ken Frazier.

"Having run one of the largest companies in the country, I can tell you that the continued rapid escalation of healthcare costs will squeeze out other critical investments we need to make in this country, from infrastructure and innovation for businesses to education and national security for the U.S. government," said Frazier. "I'm excited to join the Transcarent Board and to be part of an organization that is uniquely positioned to not only improve health and care delivery but [that] will do so in a way that makes it more equitable for the individual as well as

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Pursuing Martin Luther King Jr.'s Beloved Community

By James E. Clyburn
U.S. Rep. (D-SC)

Martin Luther King, Jr. visited Ghana in 1957 to participate in the celebration of the country's independence from British colonialism. Upon returning home, he delivered a sermon called "The Birth of a New Nation," and introduced his idea for a post-Jim Crow society in this country. He explained the concept saying, "the aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community." He equated a beloved community to a successful country.

According to Dr. King, the creation of a beloved community would require the American people to address three great evils of society: racism, poverty, and militarism. My friend and former colleague, the late John R. Lewis, arguably Dr. King's most ardent disciple, often invoked the concept to buttress his calls for a "just society." John was committed to the pursuit, but I always wondered



Photo via NNPA

if such were possible until recently.

The Biden-Harris Administration has planted significant pillars upon which a foundation is being laid to tackle the three great evils and undo the generational impacts of systemic racism in our communities. Their efforts and the response of the American people in last November's elections have buttressed my faith in such a possibility. President Biden has spearheaded a "whole of government" approach, directing every agency across the federal government to develop policies that make America's greatness more accessible and affordable to all regardless of skin color.

Racism is a clear and present danger to the suc-

cess of our "pursuit of a more perfect Union" and the Biden-Harris administration is confronting it. Recognizing the importance of environmental justice to marginalized communities, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the Justice40 Initiative, directing 40 percent of federal investments toward underserved communities disproportionately burdened by pollution.

In their efforts to confront racism directly, the Biden-Harris Administration has begun to address the racial inequities in our health care system. My father often said that if you don't have your health, you don't have anything. President Biden signed the PACT Act to make it easier for veterans suffering side effects from

the contaminated water, burn pits, and toxins they were exposed to at war to receive the care and benefits they deserve. Considering roughly 43 percent of active-duty military are people of color, this will help our Black veterans and their loved ones receive equitable health care.

Reducing poverty, King's second great evil, is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. The American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure Reduction Act, have created millions of opportunities for the American people to achieve upward economic mobility. President Biden's targeting of student loan debt relief will relieve the disproportionate economic burden of student loan debt from the shoulders of over 1.6 million vulnerable borrowers. It will also restructure repayment plans to make them borrower friendly.

Home ownership is one of the quickest and sustain-

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The Jim Crow battle against Black History



Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher,
San Diego
Voice &
Viewpoint

The current battle to remove books and any discussion about slavery and the treatment of Blacks is not new. This is what we call "Jim Crow", now presenting himself as "James Q. Esquire", the legislator. For those who might have forgotten, Jim Crow was often the name used to describe segregation; laws, customs, and rules that arose in the South after Reconstruction ended in 1877. "Reconstruction" is what

efforts to rebuild the South were called after the Civil War. It was an effort to put the South back together, economically, without the benefit of slavery, which had been its most precious product.

Newly freed slaves were finding ways to buy land, start farms, run for office as was the case. During Reconstruction 16 African Americans served in the U.S. Congress, more than 600 were elected to the state legislatures, and hundreds more held local offices across the South. White Southerners were not pleased with either the independence of Blacks nor their efforts to own land,

get educated and achieve, at the very least, equal status with Whites.

While we celebrate Black History month, and hopefully the resurgence of a study and appreciation for Black History, it's important that we use our knowledge of past efforts to suppress or erase us to fuel our present desire to do more and go further, collectively, than those who came before us. Whatever title the racist put on "Voter Suppression", and the battle against "Critical Race Theory" - which most can't spell or define - we must recognize all efforts to curtail our freedom or to create a new legal "White Zone",

as the Mississippi legislature is attempting to do, all amount to "Jim Crow" efforts under new names and titles.

The good news is that we overcame past efforts at segregation and Jim Crow laws. With the knowledge, education and skills we now have at our disposal, we, the Black People of this country, born with rights of equality guaranteed under the Constitution, will neither abandon those rights nor have them taken from us. If we look at Black History everyday, we will recognize the revised efforts to suppress or eliminate us and we will prevail.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Obesity Care Week begins as report reveals that nearly 50% of African Americans have obesity

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Obesity Care Week 2023 (OCW) kicked off on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023 with a focus on the disproportionate impact of obesity on communities of color. Health officials responsible for OCW said racial and ethnic minorities have a higher rate of chronic diseases, while African Americans have the highest. According to recent data, almost 50% of African Americans have obesity, and approximately 4 out of 5 Black women are either overweight or obese.

The causes of obesity are complex, and a person's access to healthy food, safe places to exercise and play, stable and affordable housing, access to quality health care, and social attitudes about body weight all play



According to recent data, almost 50% of African Americans have obesity, and approximately 4 out of 5 Black women have overweight or obesity. (Photo via NNPA)

a role in whether a person will have obesity. However, communities of color face unique challenges in each of these areas, health officials stated.

For example, in the United States, only 8% of African Americans live in a census tract with a supermarket, while 31% of white Americans have one. This means that minorities more often shop in small stores or bodegas or eat at fast food

restaurants. These places usually have less fresh food and more processed food.

Cultural attitudes about body weight also play a role, with non-Hispanic white women more satisfied with their body size than non-Hispanic Black women, and Hispanic women more interested in losing weight and eating healthy.

Evidence shows that the African American popula-

tion has less of an impact on existing weight loss interventions, with Black men and women achieving smaller amounts of weight loss. Health officials noted that this suggests that intensive behavioral programs result in lower levels of adherence in Black people than whites.

Founded in 2015, Obesity Care Week has a global vision for a society that values science and clinically based care and understands, respects, and accepts the complexities of obesity.

Organizers have focused on changing the way society cares about obesity and have worked to empower individuals by providing affordable and comprehensive care and prevention programs, increasing awareness of weight bias, and working to eliminate obesity.

Researchers said obesity not only affects overall health, but it also increases the risk of complications from COVID-19. According to a recent study of hospitalized patients in the US, obesity may also predispose patients to getting the virus and is the strongest predictor for COVID-19 complications.

Unfortunately, African Americans are also disproportionately affected by COVID-19. According to the CDC, 33% of those hospitalized with the virus were African Americans, compared to 13% of the US population.

Inequities in access to and quality of care result in poor overall health and many chronic diseases, such as obesity and diabetes. This can affect individuals' chances of getting COVID-19.

The communities in which African Americans live may place them at greater risk for developing chronic illnesses. For example, they may not have access to healthy foods or safe places to play or exercise. For people who try to eat healthy, living in a food desert means that they must go to a grocery store. They often must do this by public transportation.

These disparities need to be addressed so that all communities have the resources and support they need to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

"Obesity Care Week 2023 highlights the need for comprehensive and inclusive approaches to obesity care that consider the unique challenges faced by communities of color," organizers stated.

Passion can either fuel success or leave workers' tanks empty

(Newswise) — The fires of passion can propel employees toward success but can also cause them to flame out, a study by a Florida State University researcher has found.

Wayne Hochwarter, the Melvin T. Stith Sr. Professor in Business Administration at FSU's College of Business, said passion is a definite plus in employees, but it doesn't guarantee results.

"We all know people who are gung-ho but who don't have a plan or a defined mission and go forward anyway," Hochwarter said. "Passion has to be tempered, moderated and managed as a resource to make its maximum positive impact."

That moderating force is



minute and seeing if you can get someone else on board," Hochwarter said. "It's the ability to realize that it's not always okay to keep going forward, especially if you're going in the wrong direction."

The study showed that high-passion employees with elevated levels of ego resilience reported positive attitude, behavioral and well-being outcomes, outcomes that were absent in employees reporting low levels of ego resilience.

As an example, passionate workers reported lower stress and exhaustion, plus higher job satisfaction when able to tap into ego-resilience. Conversely, passion and an absence of such resources led to more anxiety, feeling worn out,

and fewer positive feelings toward work.

Those who are passionate but unable to take a step back and realize they need to slow down, pause, evaluate and determine a course of action have detrimental effects," Hochwarter said. "Among the big consequences is you can lose those social supports that lead to desired outcomes. No one wants to work with someone who is going a million miles an hour but going nowhere."

To avert these consequences, the study recommends human resource departments provide employee training programs to cope with stress and work-life balance and train leaders to better recognize signs of low resilience in

employees.

Hochwarter noted that high passion can spur someone to pursue a line of work but can also fuel burnout, a dynamic to which he attributed "a big part" of the shortage of nurses in America.

"People go into nursing because they want to help people get better — it has passion embedded in it," he said. "Passion is not a bad thing. It's an important resource, and we can't squander it by not using it well," he said.

Hochwarter said other critical occupations, including teachers and first responders, are also experiencing burnout associated with poorly calibrated and supported levels of job passion.



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Oldest Black publishing company suffers devastating flood

Last year marked the 55th anniversary of Chicago-based Third World Press Foundation, the oldest, independent, continuously operating Black publishing company in the nation. The Foundation marked the momentous occasion in the Fall of 2022 with gusto and invited their supporters, friends, authors, and family to celebrate with them at headquarters.

Unfortunately, shortly after, a water pipe burst beneath the headquarters building and the entire basement was quickly flooded.



Keith Gilyard, Founder of Third World Press Foundation
(Courtesy photo)

“The flooded area housed the major portion of Third World Press’ book inventory,” said American Book Award winner and Third World Press Founder Haki Madhubuti. “Our loss has

been overwhelming and financially crippling.”

In another disastrous turn of events, the flooding occurred right in the middle of the Foundation’s busy season as they were prepar-

ing to fill holiday orders for the Kwanzaa and Christmas gift-giving season. “Our lost inventory consisted of many of our best sellers,” said Third World Foundation Board Member Dr. Keith Gilyard during an interview with NBC Chicago. “To say that we are devastated is an understatement.”

The Foundation is seeking donations to cover their losses—including damaged books, furniture, computers, bookshelves, and the relocation of salvageable books to the first floor. The Foundation was already

forced to close for two weeks during its busiest season, thereby losing sales for the year-end holidays and fundraising.

If Third World Press Foundation is to survive this catastrophe, they need the public’s help. The Foundation is classified as 501(c)3 nonprofit status, so all donations are tax-deductible. \$125,000 has been raised so far but donations are still being accepted online via their GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/e98d712c>.

Third World Press Foundation provides quality

literature that primarily focuses on issues, themes, and critiques related to the African American public. Their mission is to make this literature accessible to as many individuals as possible.

Their goals are to cultivate a broader readership of individuals who want to gain greater insight into African American cultural traditions; to reach individuals that are younger and/or less scholarly-focused, and to reach that customer who just did not know that they existed.

Past, present and future recognized at last week’s Black History Month program in Glenn Heights

GLENN HEIGHTS – The City of Glenn Heights recognized Black History Month earlier this week with a strong program that included a glimpse into the past, the present and the future.

Glenn Heights Mayor Sonja A Brown presided over the evening’s event with the theme “Black Resistance.”

A look at the past concentrated on Harriet Tubman & the Underground Railroad with comments by Sheran Goodspeed Keyton and Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price speaking; the segment on the present Here & Now included a video presentation



Hannah Middleton / Unsplash

“How we Got Here” and speaker Brianna Brown, Co-Executive Director of the Texas Organizing Proj-

ect (TOP) highlighting key discussion for that part of the program.

The future segment in-

cluded an interpretative dance by DeSoto High School’s Director of Dance Regina Tucker with Charles O’Neal, President of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce commenting for that part of the evening’s event.

“The 2023 Black History Month national theme focuses on the importance of Black Resistance. It was important for our program to provide historical reflections of the past, current perspectives of the pres-

ent, and insightful projections regarding the future. Including many community leaders in our panel discussion, speaking on fundamental topics to create a positive future, was of equal importance. Black History Month hit a little differently for me this year. My mother, a 1969 Bishop College graduate, often shared stories of not eating some days because they refused to enter through back doors while traveling with the choir. Now, her daughter is the first African

American female Mayor of Glenn Heights. I am honored to now be [a part of] Black History. I look forward to working with other leaders across the nation to build bridges of diversity, equity, and inclusion,” said Mayor Brown.

The evening’s program also included a black art exhibit with a look at the talent that resides in the community and the importance of recognizing Black History Month not only locally but throughout the United States.

DeSoto ISD Celebrates Read Across America Day with Dr. Opal Lee

Thursday, March 2nd from 9 to 11 a.m., in the DeSoto High School Auditorium, DeSoto Independent School District second-graders will join the grandmother of Juneteenth, Dr. Opal Lee, for Read Across America Day and the National African American Read-In. This collaboration between DeSoto ISD and Dr. Lee has been uniquely designed to provide a real-time read-

ing experience for second-grade scholars across the district. Students from multiple campuses will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Lee read to them as well as share her insights. Each scholar will also receive a copy of Dr. Lee’s book.

This project is designed in alignment with the School Board’s goal to increase the percentage of students at the Meets level on the 3rd grade STAAR

reading exam as it is intended to encourage families to read together.

DeSoto ISD encourages parents and community members to seek out additional reading opportunities to assist students in practicing and excelling in reading. Along with district resources, the DeSoto Public Library has a wealth of resources to assist district families.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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2405	Loose Change Overall Odds are 1 in 4.52	\$1	4/19/23	10/16/23
2342	Super Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77	\$5	4/19/23	10/16/23
2447	100X Bonus Overall Odds are 1 in 4.35	\$5	4/19/23	10/16/23
2375	Power 100X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85	\$10	4/19/23	10/16/23
2376	Power 200X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.43	\$20	4/19/23	10/16/23
2411	Ultimate 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.50	\$20	4/19/23	10/16/23

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2023 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Dallas ISD Keeps Making Us Proud



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

The second semester is well underway, and Dallas ISD continues to excel on all fronts, both academically and athletically. I am so proud of our teachers, principals, athletes, coaches, and the entire Team Dallas ISD. You are all winners!

STEM Expo Was a Success

I had a great time at the recent STEM Expo, the largest such event in Texas. Dallas ISD's STEM Department always comes through with exhibits and activities for the whole family. It was amazing as



always.

Football Standouts Recruited

Ten outstanding District 6 athletes have been recruited to play for college teams. This is a tremendous feat for all of them. Kimball High's DaCannon

Wickware signed up to play football at the University of the Incarnate Word, and nine Carter High signees will play at various colleges. They are: Niko Johnson, McNeese State University; Kourtney Ellis and Taiwan Ledbetter, Langston Uni-

versity; Diontre Webber and Jerome McCristion, North American University; Julian Gates and Jemehl Chambers, Texas College; Jakyre Brown, Arkansas Baptist College, and Antonio Henderson, University of Texas-Permian Basin. Congratulations to you all!

Coach on a Winning Streak

Congratulations also to Carter basketball coach Lyndon Love, who has reached 400 career wins and counting. Our Cowboys are #1 in 4A, and we are loving it!

Black History Month

As we celebrate individual achievement in our district, Dallas ISD is taking the month of February, Black History Month, to join in the celebration of

African American achievement nationwide. After all, Black history is American history. The district's Racial Equity Office has planned a month of activities to celebrate this year's theme, "Black Resilience." Read all about it at <https://www.dallasisd.org/blackhistorymonth>.

Spring Break is Fast Approaching

Mark your calendars for the week of March 13-17, when schools and district offices will be closed for spring break.

Graduation Dates Set

Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2023 have been scheduled. Here are the details for District 6 schools:

Gilliam Collegiate Academy, Sunday, May

28, 12:30 pm, Ellis Davis Fieldhouse

Carter High, Sunday, May 28, 7:00 pm, Ellis Davis Fieldhouse

Kimball High, Sunday, May 28, 3:30 pm, Ellis Davis Fieldhouse

Legislative Priorities

During our January board meeting, my fellow trustees and I approved five priorities for the 88th session of the Texas Legislature: school safety; additional funding to address student learning loss, teacher shortage, and the cost of inflation; ensuring accountability of tax dollars; preserving local decision-making, and Pre-K funding. It is crucial that the district receive the legislative support necessary to ensure equitable education for all our students.

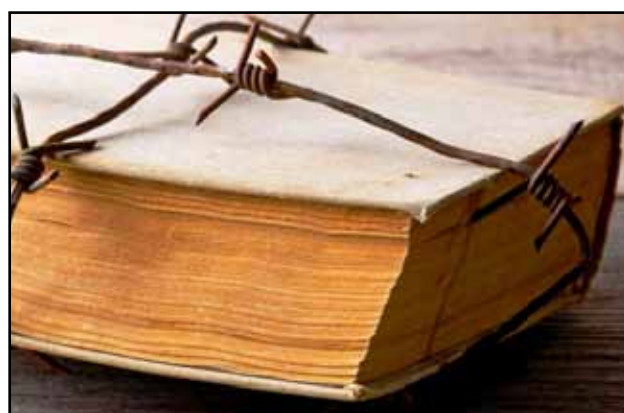
A New bill in Florida would give the governor complete control over the State's Higher Education System

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In perhaps the most racist, sexist, homophobic, and xenophobic bill crafted since the end of slavery in America, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his Republican cronies have authored a bill that takes "breath-taking control of viewpoint and content throughout all academic activity in the entire Florida system."

HB 999 says that all colleges and universities must not spend money on education programs, or other things that support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"This bill is a road map for wrecking one of our great state systems of higher education," the University of Michigan Law Professor Julian Davis Mortenson tweeted. The bill eliminates Women's and Gender Studies as a major or minor at state colleges and universities. It dictates that there can't be a major or minor that is "based on the belief



HB 999 says that all colleges and universities must not spend money on education programs, or other things that support diversity, equity, and inclusion. (Photo via NNPA).

system of Critical Race Theory."

According to the text of the bill, the university president or board would do all faculty hiring. It asserts that they "may not delegate" any aspect of any hiring decision or hiring authority to any group or faculty however constituted.

Further, the bill asserts that they are "not required to consider recommendations or opinions of faculty."

Jeremy C. Young, Pen America's senior manager of Free Expression and Education, called the bill

"terrifying."

Pen America is a non-profit group that protects and promotes free speech around the world by promoting literature and human rights.

"Florida HB 999 would enact the most Draconian and censorious restrictions on higher education in the history of this country," Young stated.

"The bill would make tenure and faculty hiring committees meaningless, ban diversity statements, and centralize control of core curricula and mission statements in the hands

of political appointees," Young said.

"Unexpectedly, it would also ban gender studies majors."

Florida's HB 999 would end state public higher education in favor of one man's authoritarian control of public university decisions and end academic freedom and shared governance, Young added. He observed that the bill would stop higher education in Florida from being a place where people could ask questions and speak their minds freely.

"Free expression and higher education advocates must fight these provisions with everything we have, in Florida and any other state where they appear," Young demanded.

"HB 999 is the central battleground for the soul of higher education. If we stand on the sidelines, we will lose."

DeSantis has repeatedly said he would fight censorship against Floridians from big tech companies

and social media platforms.

He also said the state should ban "ideology" and "indoctrination" in state schools.

The bombastic governor said Florida education should be "rooted in the values of liberty and the western tradition" and block public institutions from "supporting campus activities or programs that promote" so-called divisive concepts such as CRT or DEI.

The new law would build on the governor's Stop WOKE Act from 2022, which says that certain ideas about race can't be taught in schools. The new bill would prohibit specific academic concepts, putting the governor's calls into legislation.

The bill text states the hiring process rule applies to any position at a university, including the president. Further, faculty members' tenure status would also be open for review by the board of trustees at the request of a board's chair.

HB 999 prohibits officials from using university resources to "promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that espouse diversity, equity, and inclusion, whether directly or through contracts, grants, or service agreements."

In January, DeSantis talked about tenure and hiring practices for Florida universities. He said the change would allow the state to prevent "certain worldviews" from being promoted when faculty committees make academic hiring decisions.

Study of Western civilization, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, subsequent amendments, and the Federalist Papers would also be required. There are also requirements and changes for college and university courses focusing on social sciences and behavior, natural sciences, and math.

If the bill passes the Florida Legislature, it will take effect on July 1.

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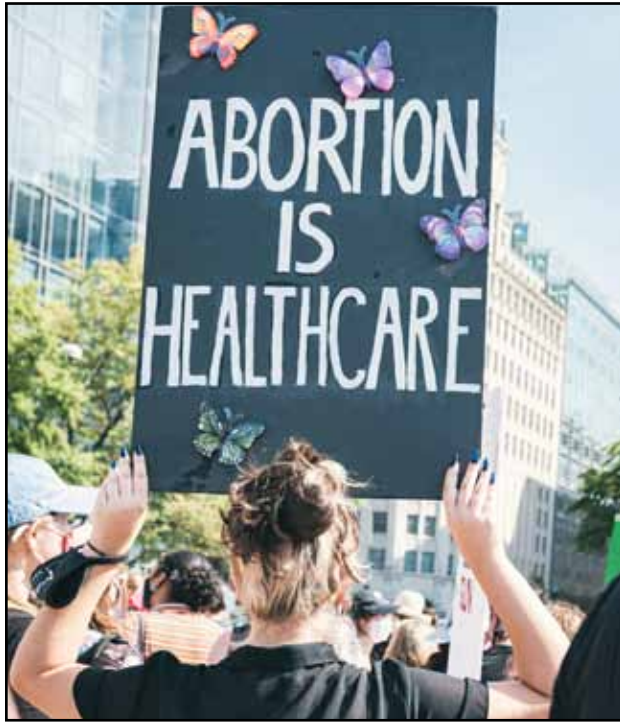
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Federal ruling protects Texas Abortions Funds' ability to pay for out-of-state abortions and travel

(Frontera) — Today, plaintiffs in a pro-abortion lawsuit released a statement in response to a federal ruling issued by U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman on February 24th, indicating that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton cannot enforce the state's abortion ban on abortions that are obtained outside state lines. The ruling allows abortion funds to provide financial assistance to Texans seeking an abortion out of state and allows Texas healthcare providers to continue caring for Texans without fear of criminal prosecution. The federal ruling protects Texas Abortions Funds' ability to pay for out-of-state abortions and travel.

A joint statement from Texas Abortion Funds and



Gayatri-Malhotra / Unsplash

Practical Support Organizations, plaintiffs in the lawsuit states, "No extremist, anti-abortion politician

should be able to prevent Texans from leaving the state to seek abortion care. All Texans deserve the right

to control their reproductive lives and futures. The state's abortion ban has had devastating impacts on all pregnant Texans, especially on our hotline callers, who are mostly working people, people of color, and young people. Texans should be able to access abortion care in their own communities when they need it without delay, and we're looking forward to supporting Texans who are forced to leave the state to access abortion."

Dr. Ghazaleh Moayed, abortion provider and plaintiff, said that abortion care is a necessary part of healthy pregnancies and thriving communities and that every Texan deserves timely access to care after an abortion. As an OB/GYN and a Texas-based abortion provider, she knows all abortion bans are medically unnecessary. She explains such imprecise tools harm the people she cares for. "I'm proud to provide full-spectrum re-

productive healthcare, even when that means leaving the state to continue caring for my neighbors." The ruling helps her to continue providing healthcare for people in other states without fear of criminalization at home.

The lawsuit challenged the state's authority to go after individuals, organizations, and businesses that help pregnant Texans obtain an abortion outside the

See RULING, Page 10

Texas remains one of the hardest states to vote in

AUSTIN — Texas leads the nation in many ways when it comes to voting, coming in second in the country for both numbers of registered voters and the eligible voting population.

But that doesn't correspond with voter turnout, where Texas was ranked the 46th hardest state in the nation to vote in a recent "cost-of-voting index" compiled by political scientists at Northern Illinois University. In this past election, 9.6 million registered voters in Texas — more than the entire population of states like New Jersey or Virginia — did not exercise their rights to vote.

The reasons stem from

the chronic underfunding of the state's election system and the waves of voter suppression laws in recent years that erected unnecessary barriers to voting, a new report on election protection efforts in 2022 from Common Cause Texas found. The report's release comes as attempts to curtail some voters' access continue, with a bill just introduced in the Texas Legislature seeking to ban polling places on college campuses, making it even more difficult for young Texas voters to participate in elections.

"Texas got it right when we wrote into our Article 2 of our State Constitution

that 'all political power is inherent in the people,'" said Katya Ehresman, Common Cause Texas' voting rights manager. "But it's time to remind our Texas legislators of that fact, so they can dismantle the existing discriminatory barriers currently inhibiting voter turnout and return power to the people of this great state."

Common Cause Texas worked with partners in the Texas Election Protection Coalition running the 866-OUR-VOTE nonpartisan hotline in 2022. An analysis of the 5,700-plus calls that came over the

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DEAL, from Page 1

moved because of fighting between Islamists and federal troops.

"The United States stands with the Nigerian people as they chart a path

toward a more democratic, prosperous, and secure future," Biden asserted.

"I appreciate President Buhari's firm commitment that the will of the people

will be respected. And in the coming days, I encourage voters to remain peaceful and patient as their ballots are tallied and urge the political parties and candidates to live up to their pledge."

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Film Review: 'Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania'

By Dwight Brown
Film Critic for NNPA

(**) The thrill is gone. The Marvel Universe shoots a blank—a tiny one.

Arguably, the itty-bitty Ant-Man and The Wasp aren't the most impressive superheroes. So, any new adventure for the self-promoting, mildly amusing Scott Lang (Paul Rudd), aka Ant-Man, and his sidekick/lover Hope Van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly), aka The Wasp, has got to be a blast. Otherwise, both will continue to be pesty bugs barely worth a swat.

After being tasked to make a big deal out of small things, co-writers Jack Kirby and Jeff Loveless don't rise to the occasion. Their feeble, generic script's main idea is to export the two insects and their extended families into a wondrous quantum realm (a premise similar to November's animated film "Strange World"). The dialogue is anemic too, as "Get to the ship" and "Don't be a dick" are the screenplay's most poi-



Photo via NNPA

gnant lines.

That's the narrative director Peyton Reed, who helmed the two previous Ant-Man movies, must work with. To build momentum for this franchise and other MU movies, as they intend to expand into a "Phase 5" level, he needed to reach deep into his bag of tricks to make this film a standout. He didn't.

Scott's teen daughter Cassie (Kathryn Newton), a science and technology buff, has been messing around with an invention. Egged on by Hope's father Hank (Michael Douglas), a physicist, but cautioned by his mate Janet (Michelle Pfeiffer), she continues. Presto! the device sucks Ant-Man, The Wasp and their clan into the quantum

realm. They're stuck in a time and place far off. An exotic sphere filled with weird creatures in need of saving.

Toying with them, like evil villains do, Kang, The Conqueror (Jonathan Majors, "The Last Black Man in San Francisco") is ready to manipulate and use the bug family to unleash a power that can destroy worlds, realms and universes. He's a bad dude. They're in trouble.

Face it, action/fantasy/adventure/comedy fans aren't that picky. They want what they want when they want it. And it feels like the entire production team is content to just meet genre fans' bare minimums. Everyone and anyone connected to

the un-special special effects should take a remedial SFX course. There isn't a laser, explosion or freefall that looks remotely innovative. Fight scenes are dull and poorly choreographed. Nearly all action sequences are im-memorable. And when the characters run from or into danger, the CGI screens are so obvious that it's embarrassing. The one visual that lingers is Ant-Man climbing a mountain of his clones. It's eerie.

The costumes (Sammy Sheldon) look like Toys R Us plastics attached to old drapes. Sets, production design and overall art direction lack a distinct style. That blandness doesn't give cinematographer Bill Pope much to work with. Even Christophe Beck's blaring musical score, with horn sections blasting louder than the speakers at a Metallica concert, don't

add an ounce of energy.

That puts a lot of stress on the cast to make the movie more than what it is--a dud. Rudd's comic charm is fun, but it wears thin quickly. Newton's innocence and spirit give Cassie spunk, and not much more. Katy M. O'Brien ("The Walking Dead") as a warrior queen fights like an MMA champ and William Jackson Harper ("The Underground Railroad"), as her sidekick, exhibits a natural charm. It's rare that an antagonist outshines the hero, but Majors' brooding, blasé villainy gives the film some credit: "Have I killed you before? It's all a blur." Kang may have a date with destiny and infamy.

For those who can sit through 2h 5m (editors Adam Gerstel and Laura Jennings) of missed opportunity, the good news

is that the finale features a nice surprise that brings the story and series full circle. That may make some of the targeted teen audience happy.

In a candid interview, veteran director Martin Scorsese expressed his view of MU films: "...they seem to me to be closer to theme parks than they are to movies ... I don't think they're cinema." The very thoughtful "Black Panther" and extremely debauched "Deadpool" beg to differ. But junky, formulaic MU movies like "Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania" make Scorsese's case.

This teeny-weeny, derivative and short-on-thrills venture gives superhero movies a bad name.

In theaters now.

Visit NNPA News Wire
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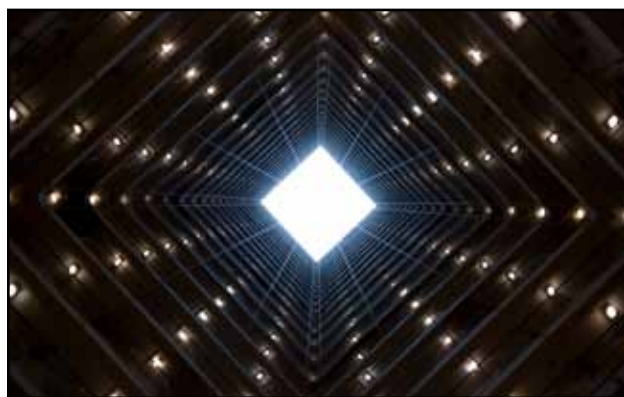
Scholars discuss research and new Marvel film at Argonne, UChicago and Fermilab

(NEWSWISE) -- Call it a Marvel-ous entanglement: Some of the nation's leading experts gathered together from the diverse fields of quantum science and multi-universe games for a screening of Marvel's newest film, "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" last week in downtown Chicago. The screening, which was also attended by the general public, was followed by a discussion about quantum science, both on film and in real life.

Albert Einstein suggested that if a person can move fast enough, time will be slowed down for him. As NASA explains, light moves up to 670,616,629 miles per hour, and in one second, light can go around the earth three times. NASA telescopes allow us to "look back" in time at the stars and galaxies far, far away because it takes the light from these galaxies so long to reach us. When we view them in a telescope, we are actually seeing them in history, they explain.

The phrase "time travel," however, is usually associated with traveling faster than one second per second. That type of time travel sounds like sci-fi. Yet NASA scientists tell us it's real!

The screening of the Marvel movie last week was exciting because it allowed the audience and panelists a chance to explore inner-space, explained David Awschalom, professor at the UChicago's Pritzker School of Molecular En-



Kirklai / Unsplash

gineering and senior scientist at Argonne National Laboratory and director of CQE. The guests had the opportunity to dive deeper into the fantastical science behind Ant-Man's newest adventure.

Quantum technology is being developed right now around the world. "Quantum science operates on rules that seem strange and counterintuitive, and yet we're making great strides every day," said Awschalom. Quantum information science and engineering is dedicated to understanding how the world works on the smallest scale: at the subatomic level. It aims to uncover the properties and behaviors of the very building blocks of nature. Electricity, magnetism, light—all the phenomena we interact with on a daily basis are driven by principles found in quantum mechanics.

"I won't say that we can travel through time," instructed panelist Gregory Grant, a sci-fi enthusiast and Ph.D. student studying quantum science and engineering at Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering and Argonne National Laboratory. "But quantum and

time is a really interesting question. I can tell you that one thing we're attempting is to put a photon into a superposition of right now and a time shortly in the future, between early and late. So, while there is no multiverse that we can access, we can nudge particles so that they arrive at different times."

Throughout the movie, Ant-Man/Scott Lang (played by Paul Rudd) encounters several quantum principles as he and his family navigate the bizarre and otherworld "quantum realm." In one scene, Ant-Man encounters a "probability storm," in which every potential choice is manifested as a different version of himself, creating a veritable army of Ant-Mans. This probability storm is a creative representation of superposition, a quantum principle in which objects can exist in multiple states simultaneously, and it's only after they are measured that their probability collapses, and they are reduced to a single state.

Following the movie, panelists discussed superposition and other phenomena captured in the film

— spending extra time on the question of time travel and whether time travel is possible as it's depicted in Marvel movies. Games and virtual worlds were a central topic, both in reference to the movie's antagonist, Kang, and on their utility in engaging and educating new generations of the scientifically curious about concepts such as quantum superposition and time travel.

The Chicago event was hosted in collaboration with Marvel Studios, the University of Chicago, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory, UChicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering and the Chicago Quantum Exchange (CQE). The panel was moderated by Kate Waimey Timmerman, the CEO of CQE, a consortium headquartered at UChicago's Pritzker Molecular Engineering that includes UChicago, Argonne, Fer-

mi National Accelerator Laboratory, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Northwestern University. The CQE convenes leading academic researchers, top scientific facilities and innovative industry partners to advance quantum science.

Chicago, home to the University of Chicago and some of the nation's foremost institutions studying quantum science and engineering, hosts two national laboratories — Argonne and DOE's Fermilab — pursuing quantum science.

UChicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering claims several internationally recognized experts on quantum and operates one of the nation's first Ph.D. programs in the field. Recent breakthroughs are furthering the creation of an unhackable internet, studying disease and unlocking quantum comput-

ing. Some of the world's most advanced quantum research takes place at Argonne and their Q-NEXT center, which convenes national laboratories, universities and leading technology companies to learn to control and distribute quantum information. Argonne scientists are developing new platforms that could transform quantum technology and networking and develop equipment to sense changes within a single cell of human tissue. The CQE is a global leader with top researchers, facilities and partners to advance quantum information, train future quantum scientists and engineers and drive the quantum economy. Its annual Quantum Summit gathers leaders in quantum science from around the globe to discuss the very newest developments in the field. To learn more about quantum science, visit <https://www.anl.gov/science-101/quantum>.



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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RULING, from Page 8

state. Plaintiffs filed the suit in August of last year a few days before HB1280, better known as the Trigger Ban, went into effect.

Elizabeth Myers, partner at Thompson & Coburn, LLP, who represents the abortion funds and provider, said that under the ruling, no state official can enforce the Trigger Ban against those who helps

Texans obtain a legal abortion out of state.

The ruling reaffirms key constitutional rights to provide information, funding, healthcare, and support to Texans in need of care. Judge Pitman's ruling also protects the plaintiffs from criminalization under the pre-Roe statutes and acknowledges the seriousness of threats made by Attor-

ney General Paxton against abortion funds, practical support organizations, abortion providers, and all Texans.

The plaintiffs in the case are Fund Texas Choice, Texas Equal Access (TEA) Fund, Frontera Fund, The Afiya Center, West Fund, Jane's Due Process, Clinic Access Support Network, Lilith Fund, and Dr. Ghazaleh Moayed.

CFPB seeks rule on junk fees to put \$9 billion back in consumers' pockets

By Charlene Crowell

Amid still-rising interest rates, most families remain financially challenged to make household needs fit into their budgets. For Black Americans whose wealth amounts to 25 cents for every \$1 of white family wealth, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve, the challenge is especially daunting.

So, it is particularly encouraging to Blacks, and others of modest means for a sitting president to speak to the average person's concerns in the annual State of the Union Address.

"Junk fees may not matter to the very wealthy, but they matter to most folks in homes like the one I grew up in," said President Joe Biden on February 7. "They add up to hundreds of dollars a month...I know how unfair it feels when a company overcharges you and gets away with it."

"Not anymore."

Junk fees are hidden and

unexpected charges that are often not included in the initial or listed price of a transaction but are added on at the time of the payment.

Many consumers are unaware of how junk fees bloat the costs of a variety of goods and services. As a result, the actual costs consumers pay are much larger than expected or advertised. Prepaid card fees, convenience fees, overdraft fees, and late fees are among the myriad of add-on charges that consumers often learn about after or during transactions.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has a section of its website dedicated to explaining the varying types of junk fees and their respective charges. To learn more about this growing consumer issue, visit <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/rules-policy/junk-fees/>.

Further, as the consumer's financial cop-on-the-beat, the CFPB has begun the rulemaking process to

rein in the financial harms caused by a myriad of fees affecting at least 85 percent of consumers, according to a 2019 survey by Consumer Reports.

The proposed CFPB rule change would make exorbitant late fees illegal. Based on the agency's estimates, the proposal could reduce credit card late fees by as much as \$9 billion per year -- even though no additional collection costs are incurred.

"In markets across the economy, junk fees have unfortunately become the norm," noted Rohit Chopra, CFPB Director in announcing the proposed rule. "These junk fees aren't subject to the normal forces of competition. They're often charged for so-called services that a consumer never wanted and are set at levels far beyond the true cost. Junk fees inflate prices and chip away at monthly budgets by obscuring part of the price from comparison shopping, making it diffi-

cult for Americans to shop around."

"When we asked people to submit their comments on and experiences with junk fees, we were inundated with stories from thousands of individuals about being charged fees for things that weren't in their control, like in the case of surprise overdraft fees," continued Chopra. "Many Americans believe these fees are just plain wrong."

The proposed rulemaking is based on earlier CFPB research released last year that found that in only one year, 2020, credit card companies charged \$12 billion in late fees alone. Card interest rates generate a separate revenue stream.

Other key findings from this report found that cardholders in majority-Black areas paid more in late fees for each card they held with major credit card issuers in 2019. People in areas with the lowest rates of economic mobility paid nearly \$10

more in late fee charges per account compared to people in areas with the highest rates of economic mobility;

While acknowledging the Bureau's earlier efforts to rein in high-cost overdraft fees, Nadine Chabrier, a Senior Policy Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending says more must be done to protect consumers from other costly junk fees.

"These charges wreak havoc on household budgets," said Chabrier. "We applaud President Biden for

highlighting their harm... We are encouraged that the consumer bureau announced it will take additional steps, and we urge the bureau to place strong limits on the size and frequency of these fees."

More support for eliminating these budget-busting fees came from Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the current Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, and its

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MLK, from Page 3

able ways out of poverty. President Biden's Housing Supply Action Plan is designed to help close the housing supply shortfall in 5 years by increasing the supply and preserving the existence of affordable housing across the country. There is an extreme mismatch between the supply of and demand for affordable homes. Closing this gap will create more affordable rental units and purchase options for low- and moderate-income families.

Dr. King's third evil, militarism, has not gone unresponded to by the Biden-Harris administration. No one can forget the images of police outfitted with military-grade equipment in cities across the country during recent racial justice protests. The militarization of police is a phenomenon that endangers everyday citizens and precipitates violent policing.

The Bipartisan Safer

Communities law reforms policing by investing in violence interruption funding and children and family mental health services. The law provides over \$250 million for community-based violence prevention programs, empowering communities to interrupt the cycle of violence by intervening on behalf of those most likely to commit offenses that require police attention. Similarly, bolstering programs and organizations that can help prevent and respond to emergency calls instead of armed police officers could stop incidents from ending in police violence.

In 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. This order mandates the reporting of police misconduct and use-of-force incidents and or-

ders all federal law enforcement agencies to revise their use-of-force policies. Now Federal agencies cannot transfer or sell military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, cutting down on the militarization of our local police departments.

For us to continue our pursuit of a more perfect union, we must embrace Dr. King's vision of a blessed community and confront the injustices that have stymied that pursuit for centuries. It is our solemn duty as Members of Congress to put forth legislation that advances liberty and justice for all. But for all our successes, much remains to be done. As we pause to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hopefully, as we move beyond this year's celebration, we will revisit this idea of a beloved community and recommit ourselves to making his dream, the American Dream, a reality.

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HEB to host hiring fair in McKinney

McKINNEY (Texas) -- H-E-B is hosting a hiring fair next Tuesday for all partner (employee) positions at the new McKinney store slated to open this summer. Jobs will include both full-time and part-time rolls for all positions in the store including bakery, deli, produce, seafood, market, catering, in-store selling (Connections), eStore, checkers, CSA, True Texas BBQ restaurant and more.

Most hourly store roles start at \$15 an hour and include a 10-percent H-E-B product discount program, annual pay reviews, partner stock plan, 401k plan with four-percent company match, paid time off and a health, vision and dental plan.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Collin College Conference Center, 2400 Community Ave. in McKinney, Texas.



Information about the event can be found at @HEB; @HEBNewsroom; #HEBMcKinney.

Individuals must complete an application before arriving to the job fair. All available positions and the application can be found at careers.heb.com.

Applicants may also text "HEB794" to 81931 to be directed to all available McKinney positions.

H-E-B, with sales of

\$34 billion, operates more than 400 stores in Texas and Mexico. Known for its innovation and com-

munity service, H-E-B celebrates its 117th anniversary this year. Recognized for its fresh food, quality products, convenient services, and a commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability, H-E-B strives to provide the best customer experience and lowest prices. Based in San Antonio, H-E-B employs over 145,000 Partners in Texas and Mexico and serves millions of customers in more than 300 communities. For more information, visit HEB.com and HEB.com/newsroom.

CFPB, from Page 11

former Chair.

"I was pleased to hear President Biden call out junk fees by name, and double down on the Administration's commitment to limit hidden fees and surcharges in a number of industries,"

stated Waters on February 8, the day after the State of the Union Address. "[W]e have long helped lead the fight to shine a bright light on these types of harmful junk fees and have advanced legislation to ensure consumers are not nickel and dimed out of savings that could

go towards buying a new home or starting a small business."

"Thanks to the leadership of Director Chopra, the CFPB is helping to advance these efforts to put more money back into consumers' pockets. I, and consumers across the country, can't wait for this rule to be finalized as soon as possible", Waters added.

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

City of Irving hosts job fair March 23

The City of Irving is hosting a job fair later this month

There are a number of positions across several departments and experience levels available, including Animal Services, Aquatics, Code Enforcement, Water Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Irving Fire Department, Solid Waste Services and the Irving Police Department. Some departments will hold on-site interviews, so bring resume copies to the event.

Irving offers competitive pay and excellent benefits for full-time employees such as health, dental and vision insurance; retirement plans; and paid vacation, sick leave and holidays.

Hiring incentive. New full-time employees hired through June 30, 2023, can receive up to the maximum amount of \$3,000* as a hiring incentive, distributed in

the following increments: \$1,000 after the first 30 days of employment; one-time payment of \$1,000 after completion of the six-month probation period; and those who complete one year of employment will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000. All Incentive payments are made provided there are no attendance or disciplinary issues.

The event will be held on Mar. 23, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jack D. Huffman Community Building at 801 W. Irving Blvd., Irving.

Register at CityofIrving.org/join to receive email notifications when new jobs open. For more information, contact Human Resources at (972) 721-2696 or email jobs@cityofirving.org. Take a look at the current positions available, and apply at CityofIrving.org/Jobs.



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.

The myths around consumer financial vulnerability and how it affects most consumers at different points in their lives

(Newswise) — Researchers from Boston College, Georgetown University, American University, Texas A&M University, and Colorado State University published a new Journal of Marketing article that challenges the entrenched belief that financial vulnerability only affects low-income consumers.

The study, forthcoming in the Journal of Marketing, is titled “Beyond Income: Dynamic Consumer Financial Vulnerability” and is authored by Linda Court Salisbury, Gergana Y. Nenkov, Simon J. Blanchard, Ronald Paul Hill, Alexander L. Brown, and Kelly D. Martin.

Even pre-pandemic, many U.S. workers lived paycheck to paycheck and lacked the resources to overcome an unexpected financial setback. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the financial vulnerability of large swaths of consumers, bringing on historic unemployment levels, soaring food bank demand, and existential crises for small businesses.

When scholars and practitioners investigate financial vulnerability, they focus on those who lack sufficient personal income or wealth to acquire goods and services to meet everyday consumption needs. Such investigations create the impression that the defining characteristics of potential victims are absolute poverty or low income and wealth.

This new study shows that most consumers, across the socioeconomic spectrum, may experience varying degrees of financial vulnerability at different points of their lives. Consumers can become financially vulnerable due to factors such as age (e.g., retirement), life events (e.g., divorce), economic cycles (e.g., inflation, recession),

and unforeseen crises (e.g., natural disasters) that hinder access to financial resources in the short or long term. The researchers assert that “There is an urgent imperative to provide insights into this underexplored domain of consumer financial vulnerability and to capture the reality of the large, heterogeneous population of financially vulnerable consumers.”

Consumer financial vulnerability (CFV) represents the risk of experiencing future harm given a consumer’s current access to financial resources and expectations about (uncertain) future resource changes. This includes not only personal income and wealth, but also extended financial resources from social relationships, government programs, and financial institutions. For example, young adults often rely on parents or grandparents when their income falls short. In contrast, older consumers rely on retirement savings and Social Security for income and Medicare for health insurance.

The researchers emphasize that being financially vulnerable is not the same as having been harmed because of one’s financial circumstances. Many consumers are financially vulnerable at any given point in time, and some (but not all) of them may eventually experience harm.

One source of vulnerability is income volatility. For example, commission-based sales professionals, gig workers, and small business owners can have highly variable income, leaving them financially vulnerable due to risks posed by month-to-month income uncertainty. They may experience harm if their income dips too much in a certain month and they are unable to cover their

living expenses.

On the other hand, consumers who have steady income, but lack access to affordable health insurance, are also financially vulnerable. Delaying preventive medical care can lead to a health crisis that results in physical harm, short-term disability, and an inability to return to work, with intensified, subsequent economic harms. This quicksand-like property of CFV and harm suggests that preventing harm (e.g., health insurance) is often less costly than recovering from harm.

A full understanding of CFV often requires a broad time perspective. Consumer actions that appear ill-advised today may be beneficial in the long term and vice versa. For example, using a payday lender to repair the car that gets a consumer to work may appear to be a risky choice today, but this short-term cost may prove prudent in the longer term if it means not missing work and losing income. On the other hand, new homeowners who purchase furniture using a retailer’s “no interest for 24 months” deferred interest financing offer ben-

efit today from zero cost credit. But they could be vulnerable in the long term if they cannot repay the full amount within 24 months, incurring high retroactive interest costs. This latter example illustrates that having access to financial resources does not always decrease a consumer’s vulnerability.

“We also emphasize that generalized financial literacy is not a panacea for reducing CFV and that financial knowledge varies widely among consumers,” says the research team. High earning consumers who lose their jobs or face an extraordinary medical experience might have the know-how to decide between an emergency withdrawal from their 401K account versus taking on credit card debt, but they have little experience with government assistance programs, the medical insurance marketplace, or unemployment insurance. “Financial knowledge is linked closely with one’s lived experience and successfully navigating vulnerability inflection points during one’s lifetime often requires gaining new types of financial knowledge,”

they add.

Finally, using data from a personal finance app, the study illustrates how researchers and companies can estimate CFV; namely, the probability that accessible resources are insufficient for a consumer to avoid harm. This approach to measuring CFV offers a foundation for scholars, practitioners, and policy

makers to broaden their understanding and consideration of CFV and its effects on consumer well-being. “It is time all stakeholders accept that CFV is not a unidimensional reflection of income, but spans a nuanced, resource-based continuum along which consumers move dynamically,” claims the research team.



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Relaxing Is Not Always So Relaxing

By James L. Snyder

For the past several weeks, or has it been several months, I've been busy with many projects to complete.

Finally, I finished my latest manuscript and sent it in; all the other projects were also finished.

That afternoon I sat back in my office chair and sighed deeply, appreciating the moment, that I was all caught up with everything. As I was thinking about it, I decided it would be good to take a day off.

I'm not one for taking days off, and I can't remember the last day I took off, but I had convinced myself that I deserved a good day off. Then, leaning back in my chair, I tried to think of what I would do on my day off. Then the thought came to me to do nothing. Have a day when I don't do anything.

After supper, I revealed my plan to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"Tomorrow," I said with a big smile, "I'm going to take the day off and do nothing."

As always, she looked at me with one of her curious smiles and asked me what my "do nothing" really meant.

"That means I will spend



Artem Belaitan / Unsplash

the whole day doing nothing and just relaxing. It's been so long since I've had a relaxing day."

I saw her smiling and remembered that kind of smile before, but it just didn't register at the time. A thought began nagging me; maybe I should not have told her I would take the day off. Oh well, it's already done.

I got up the following day, got a cup of coffee, sat in my easy chair, and started thinking about what I would do today. I always do that to organize my projects so I can get them finished.

My wife walked into the room and said, "What are you doing? I thought today you were not going to do anything."

Looking at her, I sighed

deeply and said, "You're right. I guess I just forgot."

So, this is what doing nothing is all about. I'm not sure I can get used to it, but at least I was going to experience it for the very first time.

About that time, I heard the front door ring, and when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage answered, I found out that the great-granddaughter was coming to spend the day with us. I didn't know that before, but after all, it's good to have the great-granddaughter with us.

Looking at my wife, I said, "I didn't know she was coming today. You should've told me."

She looked at me and smiled; I recognized that smile for some reason but couldn't define it.

In a few minutes, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage carrying our great-granddaughter came into the living room and said, "You know, I forgot about the garbage today."

Not knowing what she was talking about, I said, "What do you mean?"

"Well," she stuttered a little, "I got the garbage all together in the garage to take to the dump today, and I just forgot that the great-granddaughter was coming. I was wondering if maybe you could take the garbage to the dump."

At that point, what in the world is a husband to say? So I agreed, went to the garage, put all the garbage in my truck, and headed for the dump.

So, I said to myself, driving back, this is what doing nothing is all about.

I got home, and my wife was on the rocking chair feeding the baby from the bottle.

Those little babies look so cute, especially the ones in my family.

The telephone rang, and my wife asked me if I would answer it.

A recorded message said that our latest prescriptions were ready to pick up at the local pharmacy. Looking at my wife, I told her the message and then hung up.

"Would you mind going to the pharmacy and picking up our prescriptions?"

Since I was doing "nothing" for the day, I nodded in the affirmative, went out to my vehicle, and headed for the pharmacy to pick up our latest prescriptions.

I returned the prescriptions, put them on the counter, and headed to my easy chair and maybe read a book.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the living room and said, "What would you like for lunch?"

I told her anything that she would like would be okay with me.

"How about going to Wendy's and getting our lunch?"

I looked at her, slowly shook my head, and headed for my truck. I got what she wanted written down so I wouldn't forget it and headed to Wendy's to pick up our lunch.

After finishing our lunch from Wendy's, I sat back in my chair and snoozed.

Before long, she returned to the living room and said, "You know, I forgot I was going to go to the grocery store and pick up some groceries. Would you mind doing that while I babysit our great-granddaughter?"

Then she handed me a list of what she wanted at the grocery store.

At the end of the day of doing nothing, I ended up doing everything. I need to think this through the next time.

I thought of what the Bible says in Ephesians 6:7, "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

Doing nothing doesn't really please the Lord, but He is pleased when I dedicate my service unto Him.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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Women History Month begins...



Sister Tarpley
NDG
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Editor

To celebrate strong women who have made, or who are making a difference I will highlight facts about Black women and their contribution to mankind this month.

Throughout history, Black women have made contributions to our society. Unfortunately, most of the time, you will not find their stories in America's history books.

Accounts of the lives of individual Black women are critically important because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vision of what a woman can do.

The stories of Black women's lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give Black boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Knowing Black women's achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who they are and what they can accomplish today.

There is real power in hearing Black women's sto-



Delilah L. Beasley (1867-1934), Historian and Newspaper Columnist

ries, both personally and in a larger context. Remembering and recounting tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments inspires today's generations and opens the way to the future.

Delilah L. Beasley - Historian and Newspaper Columnist; at her memorial service, which was a testament to her life-long crusade for justice, all attending stood and made the following pledge—"Every life casts its shadow, my life plus others make power to move the world. I, therefore pledge my life to the living work of brotherhood and material understanding between the races.

Beasley was the first Black woman to be regularly published in a major metropolitan newspaper and

the first author to present the history of Blacks in early California.

Growing up in Ohio, Beasley started writing social columns for Black and White newspapers while still a teenager. After her parents' deaths, she sought a career path that would better support her younger siblings, working as a hairdresser, massage therapist, nurse, and maid for many years.

In 1910 she moved to Oakland California where she immersed herself in the local Black community and again started writing articles in local newspapers.

In 1915 Beasley started writing a weekly column in the Oakland Tribune. Her articles protested the stereotypes contained in the movie "The Birth of a Na-

tion." Through a column called "Activities among Negroes," she campaigned for Black dignity and rights.

She Highlighted activities of local churches, women's clubs, literary societies, along with national politics, and achievements of Black men and women; her column aimed to give all readers a positive picture of the Black community and demonstrate the capabilities of Blacks.

Deeply interested in the history of Black Californians, Beasley trained herself in archival research and oral histories. In 1919 she self-published The Negro Trail-Blazers of California, this was a groundbreaking book chronicling the lives of hundreds of Black Californians from the pioneer period through the early 20th century.

Her book included an unprecedented amount of Black women's history, focusing on the strong roles women played in their

communities and featuring countless biographies of Black women leaders.

In the thirties, Beasley was the driving force behind

the passage California's first anti-lynching bill. She continued her column and was active in the community until her death in 1934.

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NDG Book Review: 'Black Founder: The Hidden Power of Being an Outsider'

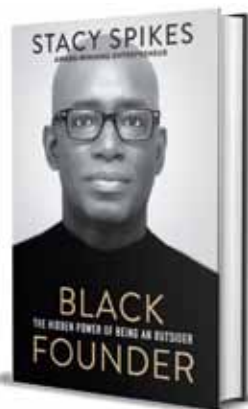
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

A good building starts with a substantial foundation.

No matter where you go from there, that base is an opening action, an announcement, a public sign of things to come. Whether it's a new home for human, hoop, or heirlooms, or the future site of industry or ideas, the foundation is the start of something exciting. In a new business and as in the new book "Black Founder" by Stacy Spikes, it needs to be solid.

With high school graduation on the horizon, Stacy Spikes was itching to move.

His hometown of Houston, Texas, had become "too small" to hold his



dreams. Education was important in his family, but college held no interest to him, either. Instead, he was going to Los Angeles to chase a career in music and movies.

He broke the news to his parents and, with \$300 in his pocket, he drove north-west.

Once in California, Spikes quickly understood that he didn't need a job, he needed several of them. Before he could get settled, though, he fell in with a bad crowd and was hospitalized to help him kick drugs and alcohol abuse forever.

He returned to a job he had working with a two-in-one company in Encino, making and packaging videos. The men he worked with mentored him; it was there that he learned the need to "go to extra lengths to meet [someone] in their field."

Spikes took acting classes and absorbed as much as he could about old-time Black comedians. He built a recording studio in his home and learned to make

album covers, which led him to a job at Motown, where he went into sales and learned how to make an impression. The "Black Godfather" taught him that it was possible to talk with anyone, black or white, with honesty. And before he founded Urbanworld Film Festival and Movie-Pass, Motown helped him see that to succeed, "You didn't need an army, just a small group of like-minded souls set on making a difference."

Readers looking for a good business biography are in for a nice surprise when they read "Black Founder." They'll also get some entrepreneurial advice. It's not bold-face or bulleted; you'll have to

look for it, but it's in there.

"Transparency" is what author Stacy Spikes learned early, and it's what he applies inside this book, which is refreshing. This isn't a book about a meteoric rise; Spikes instead writes about setbacks, both personal and professional, and times of struggle. Readers can imagine a Parkour-like hustle that Spikes describes as he overcame seemingly-catastrophic events and still landed with both feet; such tales serve to instruct as much as does the actual instruction.

Though it may seem to lag a bit – especially for older readers, or those who are unfamiliar with the businesses Spikes founded – "Black Founder" is en-

tertaining enough to read for fun, with a side dish of instruction. Whether you're ready to act now or you're just finding your inner entrepreneur, to launch your idea, it's a good base.

...

Here's a rags-to-riches story for you: "Never Far From Home" by Bruce Jackson (Atria, \$28) is the story of Jackson's life. He was born in Brooklyn and lived his early life in public housing. At age ten, he was arrested for robbery (which he didn't do) and he caught the attention of drug dealers. Knowing then that that wasn't the kind of life he wanted, Jackson worked hard to overcome his background. His story is inspiring and awe-striking.

VOTE, from Page 8

year included paper shortages at more than 20 Harris County polling locations on Election Day causing delayed openings; additional opening delays at 67 polling locations across 12 counties; curbside voting issues at polling locations in 10 counties; intimidation towards voters reported in nearly 80 counties; and long waits on college campus polling stations in 23 counties, and poor signage or adequate parking at 15 different campuses,

Most concerning, voters of color disproportionately faced problems when voting this year. In instances

where callers to the hotline self-identified their race or ethnicity, more than half identified as voters of color, the majority being Black or Hispanic Texans.

"Our democracy only works when we all can participate and determine our collective future," Ehresman said. "That's not happening in our state right now. Suppressive obstacles like unnecessary vote-by-mail processes and poorly funded voter education efforts are getting in the way of people's ability to vote."

"A state as big as Texas should not be ranking 41st in turnout. It should not be

a partisan issue to believe that every eligible voter's voice should be heard," she said.

As detailed in our report, there are a number of badly-needed policy changes that would prevent so many of the problems identified from occurring again. We look forward to working with lawmakers to adopt fixes such as:

- More investment in election administration. Texas's annual budget of \$4.5 million for voter education efforts works out to just \$0.21 per eligible voter in the state and is woefully inadequate. Texas has the fastest growing population in the nation, our funding

line for voter education should not be stagnant, and decreasing for every eligible voter and our state grows

- Strengthened vote-by-mail system. Changes in 2022 to mail voting led to widespread voter confusion and mistakes, with tens of thousands of ballots being rejected during the primaries. More investments are needed at the county level for outreach to voters to fix flagged ballots, while the state should give voters 14 days, as opposed to the current six-day window, to fix incomplete or incorrect mail-in ballots. The new mail-in ballot tracker maintained by the

state is cumbersome and confusing and in dire need of improvements, including more expeditious alerts about ballot rejections and more frequent updates on ballot status.

- Improved access for voters with disabilities. Texas polling places are required to be accessible to voters of all abilities, but Common Cause Texas and partners received reports of ineffective curbside voting signage or administration, as well as polling place access issues. To reach compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the existing Texas Election Code, we must improve ac-

cessibility to all polling locations.

- Automatic and online voter registration system. Would-be voters are unable to register to vote online in Texas, an option offered in the majority of other states. An online option would not only remove one of the most significant barriers to voting in our state, but also save public resources with an estimated savings of over \$738,211 in Texas if recently registered voters didn't accrue counties the cost per form. Automatic voter registration when new residents receive driver licenses, for example, would also improve turnout.

FRAZIER, from Page 2

their employer."

As one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People and one of the most influential CEOs in healthcare, Frazier brings unmatched experi-

ence and business acumen to help shape Transcent's long-term growth strategy. "Ken's experience in healthcare and business is unparalleled. He's a sea-

soned executive and has been a member of some of the most prestigious industry boards including Merck and ExxonMobil," said Glen Tullman, CEO of Transcent.

"Ken's decision to join

our Board further validates Transcent's mission to solve the industry's most challenging issues, including making it easy for employees and their families to access high-quality, affordable health and care and

ensuring the costs are manageable for employers who pay for care," said Tullman.

Ken Frazier recently served as the Executive Chairman of the board of directors of Merck, where he was President and Chief

Executive Officer for a decade, from 2011 to 2021. He is currently the chairman of General Catalyst's Health Assurance Initiatives, focused on creating a more proactive, affordable, and equitable system of care.

JOHNSON, from Page 2

she earned in 1995.

Mrs. Johnson has proudly accepted numerous awards in recognition of her work, including the Leadership and Management Award, the Federal Contracting

Award, Federal Contracting Officer, and the Housing Data Management System from the United States Coast Guard. She's also received many awards in real estate and was recognized

as one of the 100 Leading Ladies of the South for her community service contributions. As the wife of Pastor Carl Johnson, she has been given countless awards/trophies for speaking engagement as a minister.

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