



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Booker T. Washington's great granddaughter will attend local Juneteenth events

Sandra Crenshaw, Dallas County 19 of June Committee, will co-host Dr. Sarah Washington Rush, the great granddaughter of Booker T. Washington during the Juneteenth celebrations in North Texas, June 16 through 18, 2023. Dr. Sarah, as she is affectionately known, will be participating in the Waxahachie NAACP Juneteenth Parade on June 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Rush is the last born of the great-grandchildren of former slave, turned famous educator, and founder of Tuskegee University—Booker T. Washington (1856–1915). Dr. Rush founded a non-profit to honor his legacy.

Dr. Rush's grandfather was Ernest Davidson Washington, and his second wife, Olivia Davidson, was her grandmother, who died shortly after their sons were born.

Booker Taliaferro Washington was among the last generation of Black American leaders born into slavery. He became the leading voice of the former slaves and their descendants.

Dallas County NOJOC will caravan on June 17th from Hwy 35 and Pleasant Run, Desoto to attend Juneteenth at Mexia at Comanche Crossing at 12:30p.m. The eman-



Dr. Sarah Washington Rush, the great granddaughter of slave-turned-educator Booker T. Washington will attend local celebrations of Juneteenth. (Courtesy photo)

cipation celebration will be held at the Booker T. Washington Park in Mexia, the only emancipation park that is owned and operated by the descendants of former slaves.

The parade will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Waxahachie, and a celebration will be held at noon in Mexia. Mexia is just under 90 miles to the south of Dallas along IH-35.

The event will be followed by a VIP reception from 7:00pm - 9pm on June 17th at the Pittman Hotel in Dallas, with dancing until 11pm.

During a difficult period of transition in the nation, Booker T. Washington did much to improve

the working relationship between the races. His work greatly helped Black people to achieve education, financial power and understanding of the U.S. legal system. This contributed to their attaining the skills to create and support the civil rights movement, and it led to the passage of important federal civil rights laws in the later 20th century.

Washington secretly funded litigation for civil rights cases, such as challenges to Southern constitutions and laws that had disenfranchised Black people across the

See GUNS, Page 16



### Civil rights organizations, responsibilities

- See Page 3



### Possible remedy for radiation

- See Page 4



### The impact of the Voting Rights Act

- See Page 5



### So much to celebrate in District 6

- See Page 6



### Allred draws big support in senate bid

- See Page 7



### 'Unfinished Business' shines in moments

- See Page 9



### New park trail system puts Dallas on map

- See Page 10



### Sister Tarpley: Secret of the Bended Knees

- See Page 14

### Inside...

People in the News ....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Northside .....	7
Entertainment .....	9-10
City of Dallas .....	11-12
Career / Notices .....	13
Religion .....	14-15
Big Tex Scholarship ...	16



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### People In The News ...



Erin B. Corcoran



John W. Magugu, PhD

NDG Quote of the Week: "In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist."  
—Angela Davis



## Erin B. Corcoran

Erin B. Corcoran, executive director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and associate teaching professor at the Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame, is an expert on U.S. immigration law and policy, refugee and asylum law, human trafficking and the protection of vulnerable migrant populations.

Corcoran gave this response to the proposed plan to send 1,500 troops to the Mexico border as Title 42 immigration restrictions



expired on May 11, and the implications of the proposed rules that will deny asylum seekers the right to claim asylum if they cross into the U.S. without prior legal authorization.

“Sending military troops to the border is troublesome. The military is not trained in immigration law or refugee protection. While they will not adjudicate cases, the presence of the military sends a message of militarization and the securitization of the border. This is not the first time a President has sent the military to the border to assist the Department of Homeland Security. President Trump also sent troops.”

“In addition, the Biden Administration is proposing significant changes that

could negatively affect asylum seekers, including setting up regional processing centers in Latin America. While these regional border stations can be helpful in processing asylum claims in third countries, they must not be a substitute for U.S. obligations to provide access to asylum in the United States. In addition, the U.S. has been in negotiations with Mexico for Mexico to receive nationals from third countries. This is potentially problematic as there is no guarantee that Mexico is a safe country for such nationals or that

Mexico won’t deport these nationals back to harm or potential harm.”

“Beginning in March, numbers tend to start increasing on the border; this has been true of unaccompanied minors since 2014, where the increase begins in the spring season. In addition, many asylum seekers have been stranded in Mexico due to the previous administration’s ‘remain in Mexico’ policy. Subsequently, there is a backlog of cases waiting to be adjudicated.

“While we are seeing seasonal migration patterns

playing out in increased flow to our southern border, it is important to discuss the reason these children are taking such a dangerous journey in the first place. The reality is that the conditions in the Northern Triangle region continue to be incredibly violent and unsafe, particularly for women and children. Gender-based violence is a huge cause of flight, as well as gang violence and government corruption. Until the root causes of flight are dealt with, people will continue to flee in search of safety.

## John Westley Magugu, PhD

SAN ANTONIO (24-7PressRelease) -- John Westley Magugu, PhD, MBA is an environmental safety and sustainability expert currently working in consulting and as the grains quality risk program manager for MARS Petcare. Motivated by a desire to make the world a better place, Dr. Magugu earned a bachelor of science in agroforestry and rural development at Moi University before relocating to the United States to pursue a Master of Science in urban forestry at Southern University and A&M



College. In 2016, he was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in environmental dynamics by the University of Arkansas, and in 2022, Dr. Magugu completed an additional Master of Business Administration at the

University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business. In addition to his degrees, Dr. Magugu has completed more than ten additional industry credentials and continuing education courses.

In 2009, Dr. Magugu accepted his first professional role as a project coordinator at Turkwel Gorge Hydroelectric Dam, where he was responsible for treating gullies and planting more than 200,000 trees. During this period, he also worked with Kenya Commercial Bank as a sales team lead, ultimately bringing in over 400 new clients including, 50 small scale female

and youth entrepreneurs. He also held research associate roles with both Plan International and the World Agroforest Center. After completing his Master’s degree, Dr. Magugu became an independent carbon footprint consultant at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

He would later consultant for K& K Farm Service, Inc., while also serving as a Post Doctoral, Grain Quality, Extension, and Sustainability Research manager for the University of Arkansas’ Agricultural Rice Research and Extension Center, a role he held between 2016 and 2019. After

spending a year as an agricultural subject matter expert consulting for Winrock International, Dr. Magugu became the principal and natural climate solutions lead for Edge Environment and a resident consultant for the Gerson Lehrman

See MAGUGU, Page 12

## Elijah Washington

(Black PR Wire) -- Elijah Washington will attend Cannes Film Festival on May 19 to screen “Alemanji,” a film he executive produced with his brother Robert “Zay” Washington. The film, a coming-of-age comedy about first-generation African youth, Alemanji Fouka and his journey to assimilate to American culture amid the warring cultural norms of his strict African parents.

Elijah Washington is a multi-faceted creative from Maryland who now resides in Los Angeles, California. Elijah has been immersed in the arts since he was a child and is a classically trained singer. This creative upbringing led him to pursue



a Bachelor of Arts in Music Business at Anderson University. Within his first year of moving to Los Angeles, he was selected to write music for a BET original movie “Angrily Ever After” and guest-star in Daytime Emmy-nominated show “A House Divided.” Through his company, Fire Rock

Productions, Elijah has written and executive produced projects which included talents from the likes of Aaron Dominguez (“Only Murders in the Building”), Terayle Hill (“Judas & the Black Messiah”) and Courtney Nichole (“Tyler Perry’s Assisted Living”). Last year, Elijah screened his film “Diminished” on FOX SOUL. Most recently, he released his new single “Live Your Life” which is available on all platforms.

“Alemanji is a beautiful film that will provide insight on the cultural disconnect between Africans who migrated to America and African Americans who are products of the diaspora.

See ELIJAH, Page 13

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## Freedom Rides 2.0: Civil rights organizations and institutional leadership responsibilities

By Arthur C. Fleming

African American civil rights leaders and organizations must move from the conflicted leadership model to a "de-conflicted" leadership that will allow coalition building around issues of common interest based on the community good.

For context, I'm an air force veteran, life member NAACP, life member Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and a coalition member of the Poor People Campaign, with a degree in operations and production management from Texas A&M, Commerce.

What is leadership? Leadership is the ability of an individual or a group of people to influence and guide followers or members of an organization, society or team, as defined by TechTarget.

What is conflicted leadership? Conflicted leadership is when organizations or leaders have the same or similar issues and goals, but because of organizational culture and/or history, never developed the communications infrastructure to coordinate ideas when addressing the same or similar issues at the grassroots level.

What is de-conflicted leadership? The Devine Nine Black Greek organizational structure is an excellent example of de-conflicted leadership and coalition leadership combined for the community good.

First, you have nine organizations whose main goals are similar or the same (de-conflicted), which is service, and servant leadership for the African American communities.

The Black Greek organizations comprised of nine organizations with similar goals and aims, coalition together as a group called Panhellenic, for the com-

munity good. The Devine Nine, through the Panhellenic, coordinate activities with the common interests of all nine organizations in mind.

African American civil rights leadership organizations and institutions can take a page from the Devine Nine.

The NAACP, Urban League, National Action Network, Black Greek National Panhellenic, Operation Push and other "Afrocentric" organizations have developed their cultural identities and ways of knowing and doing that make grassroots coalition building difficult because of their strong "political" and "corporate" sensibilities.

To be clear, I'm not saying these organizations are not doing the work. I'm saying the work needs to be focused at the grassroots level but with support from the corporate level.

I recently re-posted National Action Networks Convention, where NAACP National President Derrick Johnson spoke.

Our major civil rights organizations are communicating at the national level, but coalition building and leadership resources are needed at the grassroots level. With my experience as a community organizer for four decades in Dallas, I say, there is no "consistent" grassroots coalitions building to work on issues of common concern for the community good.

Our civil rights organizations' leadership responsibilities in this moment of movement include understanding the needs of grassroots activists for more material and moral support to create the infrastructure to communicate the sense of urgency needed to confront rising fascism in America.

The most effective com-

munication infrastructure for Freedom Rides 2.0 is grassroots up. The community "Grassroots Up Movement" is waiting on leadership to lead. The most successful movements in history have been grassroots inspired, not corporate inspired.

Freedom Rides 2.0 movement leadership must be de-conflicted, not just in America, but globally to reflect our African roots, both in Africa and South America.

Let's build global bridges leading to our empowerment as global citizens as this new world forms right before our "consciousness."

The lack of a "sense of urgency" from our national organizations' leadership means, once again, the grassroots must lead.

African American legacy institutions must "de-conflict" and come together to create a meta space to safeguard community communications infrastructure.

We are entering into the age of "AI" with a constant influx of new technology on the scene. The African American communities are in need of education about the impact of this technology on its community in the immediate future.

Our African American children must see us fighting for them at this moment in America so they can learn how to fight for themselves. Let's be our children's examples and finish what our ancestors started: "The march towards freedom."

### Arthur C. Fleming: the fierce urgency of now

Born in Ennis, Texas and a product of Ennis I.S.D., Arthur later joined the United States Air Force (USAF 1971-75) as an aircraft mechanic. During his college years at East Texas State, where he now holds a Bachelor of Business Ad-

ministration, he worked for E-Systems in Greenville. There, he filed an EEO complaint for its hiring and promotion practices, resulting in a self-nomination program that allowed employees to apply for promotion without having to secure a sponsor. During this time, he also became a member of Z.T. Chapter Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and he remains an active lifetime member of Alpha Sigma Lambda (Dallas).

In 1980, he became a charter member of the NAACP-ETSU/A&M Commerce Chapter. A member for over 35 years, he has held executive positions in Youth Works, as Communications Chair, as Editor for NAACP-Dallas' the Vision Newsletter, and as recent past President (2015-16). His work with the NAACP included removal of a confederate flag and statue of Robert E. Lee at Six Flags over Texas, securing funding for southern sector school improvements, and leading in the school water campaign. He received Texas State Conference Torchbearer Awards in 1997, 2001, and 2015 and 2016.

From (1987-95), Arthur worked as a juvenile detention officer for Dallas County and served as AFME Union Steward. In his union role, Arthur provided leadership that lead to a Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuit, resulting in employees recovering three years of back overtime pay and leading to changes in promotion-from-within policies.

Arthur brings leadership that is currently being called upon to help take us to a new place in our American diaspora.

*Civil Rights Freedom Rides 2.0*

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## First-in-human trial of oral drug to remove radioactive contamination begins

(NIH) -- A first-in-human clinical trial of an experimental oral drug for removing radioactive contaminants from inside the body has begun. The trial is testing the safety, tolerability and processing in the body of escalating doses of the investigational drug product HOPO 14-1 in healthy adults. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, is funding the Phase 1 trial, which is sponsored and conducted by SRI International of Menlo Park, California.

Internal radioactive contamination occurs when radioactive elements are absorbed through wounded skin, inhaled or ingested. This could happen as the result of a nuclear power plant accident or the detonation of a "dirty bomb" nuclear weapon. As the atoms of radioactive elements decay, they emit ionizing ra-



NIH-funded clinical trial will determine safety, tolerability of experimental drug. (Laura Chouette / Unsplash)

diation, which can damage DNA, tissues and organs. One method for reducing the risk of this damage is to remove the radioactive elements from the body as soon as possible after contamination occurs.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved two products for removing internal radioactive contamination. These drugs, both based on diethylenetriamine pentaacetate (DTPA), are administered intravenously by a healthcare provider

and can remove three radioactive elements: plutonium, americium, and curium.

In contrast, HOPO 14-1 has been formulated as an oral capsule, which would be easier than an intravenous drug to stockpile and to deploy and administer during an emergency. Pre-clinical research has shown that HOPO 14-1 can effectively remove many radioactive contaminants, including uranium and neptunium in addition to plutonium, americium and curi-

um. These studies also have found that HOPO 14-1 is up to 100 times more effective than DTPA at binding and removing these radioactive elements.

NIAID has funded the discovery and development of HOPO 14-1 since 2006. The active pharmaceutical ingredient in the drug is called 3,4,3-LI(1,2-HOPO).

The Centers for Disease control explains, the walls of your home can block a great deal of harmful radiation. Because radioactive materials become weaker over time, sheltering in place or staying indoors for at least 24 hours can provide significant protection. During this time, fans, air conditioners, and forced-air heating that would bring in air from the outside should be turned off, and doors, windows, or vents should be temporarily sealed with duct tape or plastic when radiation is nearby. To avoid suffocation, after

three hours, vents should be unsealed and room should be ventilated. Removal of clothes exposed to radiation can also prevent up to 90% of contamination, they report.

The trial is taking place at a site in Plymouth, Michigan, under the leadership of Sascha N. Goonewardena, M.D., a physician investigator at SRI's Clinical Trials Unit and an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. The study team will enroll 42 healthy participants ages 18 to 65 years in seven groups of six. Each participant in the first group will receive a 100-milligram (mg) dose of HOPO 14-1. The subsequent groups will receive increasingly higher doses of the study drug up to 7500 mg in the final group, if lower doses are deemed safe. Participants will undergo intensive safety monitoring and will

be followed for 14 days to measure the absorption, distribution and elimination of the study drug. Results are expected in 2024.

Additional information about the trial is available in ClinicalTrials.gov under study identifier NCT05628961. Andrea DiCarlo-Cohen, Ph.D., director of the Radiation and Nuclear Countermeasures Program in the NIAID Division of Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation, is available to respond to media inquiries about the trial.

NIAID conducts and supports research—at NIH, throughout the United States, and worldwide—to study the causes of infectious and immune-mediated diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing and treating these illnesses. News releases, fact sheets and other NIAID-related materials are available on the NIAID website.

## MedStar offering free community, CPR, Stop the Bleed and Narcan Administration Training" May 25th

FORT WORTH -- Quick! The person next to you just collapsed from cardiac arrest, or is not breathing due to a possible overdose, or is bleeding to death from a traumatic injury! You have only 2 minutes to save a life! Do you know what to do?

MedStar crews responded to 1,659 cardiac arrest calls in the past 12 months—Only 603 (36%) of these patients

received Bystander CPR, one of the greatest predictors of cardiac arrest survival.

Bystander CPR increases the survival of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, and it also helps out-of-hospital cardiac arrests whose initial rhythm is shockable. That is to say BCPR is also helpful when emergency department response time is short, reports National Institutes

of Health.

In the past 12 months, MedStar crews responded to 873 patients suffering a potential overdose. Narcan, one of the most effective treatments for life-threatening overdose is available over the counter. The public can learn how to get it and administer it.

Major bleeding can lead to death in a matter of minutes. Knowledgeable

bystanders can implement quick bleeding control techniques before EMS arrival.

As part of National EMS Week, MedStar is offering a free Hands Only CPR, Stop the Bleed and Narcan Administration class on Thursday, May 25th from 6p – 8p at our headquarters: 2900 Alta Mere Drive, Fort Worth

Be more than a bystander – be a Citizen Responder!



An AMBUS will be on display, and facility tours will be available. (Courtesy photo)

## Systematic racism boosted vaccine mistrust in Black communities

UNIV. OTTAWA (News-wire) — The Black Health Interdisciplinary Centre at the University of Ottawa has conducted a survey that uncovers the extent of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Black communities concerning healthcare.

A recent study from the

University of Ottawa discovered that the mistrust of the healthcare system is so deeply rooted that even educated individuals within the community are reluctant to get vaccinated.

According to Datnorth East, Black communities in Canada and the Western

world have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of infection and mortality. Despite having equal access to COVID-19 vaccines, these communities have the lowest vaccination rates. In fact, the mortality rate among

Black communities is 2.2 times higher than other populations affected by COVID-19.

Belief in conspiracy theories contributed to mistrust of the vaccines. And while the study found that Black individuals with higher health literacy were

more inclined to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, they were less likely to trust COVID-19 vaccines and healthcare resources if they had experienced systematic racism or discrimination within the healthcare system.

Age was a contributing

factor, as Black individuals between 14-34 being were less likely to be vaccinated. And while income did appear to contribute, surprisingly, the level of education was inconsequential in relation to CO-

See VACCINE, Page 12



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# The Voting Rights Act's impact on Black representation in local government

Univ. Chicago Press Journals (Newsweek) — Upon the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, not only were Black voters in the American South given suffrage. There was also an increased presence of Black legislators in local government, a recent paper in the April 2023 edition of the Journal of Political Economy reveals. Titled “Race, Representation, and Local Governments in the US South: The Effect of the Voting Rights Act,” the authors Andrea Bernini, Giovanni Facchini, and Cecilia Testa examine the act’s impact on the election of Black officials to county commissions and other positions in the years immediately following its passage.

The elimination of literacy tests and other impediments to Black voter registration was a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, which also mandated that specific “covered” areas with a record of discrimina-



Mike Von / Unsplash

tion adhere to specific measures. After its enactment, Black voter registration and turnout saw a swift upswing. Nonetheless, while advocates of civil rights, such as Martin Luther King Jr., aspired that the

legislation would generate a greater number of Black officials in elected office, the actual effectiveness of this outcome remained uncertain. As expressed by Bernini, Facchini, and Testa: “Did the VRA fulfill its

pledge?”

The authors of the study concluded that “While before 1965 Black office holding in all states of the former Confederacy was unconnected to their racial composition, in the immediate aftermath of the VRA, Black representation rose further in counties with higher percentages of African Americans, and the gradient of the relationship was distinctly steeper for covered counties.”

Although Bernini, Facchini, and Testa acknowledge that informal accounts might imply that African Americans were only elected to lower-ranking positions, their analysis reveals that coverage led to a significant rise in Black representation on county commissions. The authors identify commissions as “the most crucial local government bodies in the US South” since they administer local finances, and the authors discovered that

capital spending escalated more swiftly within counties electing Black commissioners.

Despite the advancements made in commissions, the authors did not observe comparable progress in municipal governing bodies and school boards. The authors explain that these offices were subject to various existing electoral regulations. Black officials were elected more often in single-member district elections than in at-large elections, where all representatives are elected by the majority of a jurisdiction. Nevertheless, “in less than two decades, the VRA brought about a substantial transformation in the racial composition of local governments in the US South,” the authors state, highlighting that other potential outcomes, beyond the increase in local spending, necessitate further investigation.

To conduct the inquiry, the writers appraised the

influence of the Voting Rights Act’s on racial representation in local government bodies in the American South from 1962 to 1980, obtaining National Roster of Black Elected Officials data on African American individuals holding positions on county governments, school district boards, and municipal governing bodies during that era in the 11 states that comprised the former Confederacy.

The authors took two approaches to the information. First, they assessed how the contrast between the previous proportion of Black individuals and the number of Black officials altered over time within counties under coverage. Additionally, they analyzed if covered counties with greater preexisting Black populations encountered a larger surge in Black office holding after the enactment of the VRA, as compared to non-covered counties.

# Texas poised to pass historic animal cruelty prevention bill

AUSTIN – On May 11, HB 598 by Representative Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) passed the Texas House and Senate and was on its way to Governor Abbott’s desk to be signed into law. The bill prevents previous perpetrators of animal cruelty from possessing an animal and establishes an enhanced offense for repeat offenders in an attempt to prevent future violence.

“We are so grateful to Representative Shaheen, Joint Author Representative Bhojani, and Senate Sponsor Whitmire for working on this momentous legislation that will interrupt cycles of violence for animals and people alike,” said Shelby Bobosky, Executive Director of the Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN). “Decades of research show that violence inflicted upon animals is the single greatest predictor that an abuser will escalate to hurting people, like in the



HB 598 passes the House and Senate (Alin Luna / Unsplash)

Uvalde shooting. Unless interrupted early on, animal abusers have a very high incidence of recidivism. In 2017, THLN led a successful effort to strengthen our state’s animal cruelty law, considered one of the most effective animal cruelty laws in the United States, and this law goes hand in hand with continuing to protect our pets.”

“Turning a blind eye to animal cruelty is something our children, families and communities simply can-

not afford,” said HB 598 Author Representative Shaheen. “HB 598 is the next logical step in closing the loophole in Texas law that allows abusers continued access to animals.”

“When animals are safe from harm, our communities as a whole are safer,” said Joint Author Representative Salman Bhojani. “I am proud to be a Joint Author on this legislation that will allow the state to intervene before violence occurs.”

“As the author of the original animal cruelty law in Texas, I am proud to be the Senate Sponsor of HB 598 by Representatives Shaheen and Bhojani,” said Senate Sponsor John

Whitmire. “This new law will help ensure people accused of animal cruelty will no longer have access to animals and will help break the cycle of animal abuse.” “It is clear that cur-

rent penalties for animal abuse do little to actually stop abuse,” said Jamey Cantrell, President of the Texas Animal Control As-

See CRUELTY, Page 11

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## So Much to Celebrate!



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

The school year is nearly done, and I can't wait to see our seniors walk across the stage. I love this time of year!

The graduation schedule has been set, and all of our District 6 seniors will mark their big day on May 28, all at Ellis Davis Field House. For Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy, the ceremony will begin at

12:30 p.m. Kimball High School will start its commencement at 3:30 p.m., and Carter High School will have its graduation at 7 p.m. The ceremonies will be streamed live for those unable to attend, and after the live event you can watch them on the district's YouTube channel. To stay up to date on graduation goings-on, visit [dallasisd.org/graduations](http://dallasisd.org/graduations).

As we prepare for summer, this is also a good time to honor excellence in academics, athletics, and leadership among our students and faculty.

### Principal of the Year!

Congratulations to Principal Gayle Ferguson Rodgers of Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy, who was chosen as the district's 2023 Principal of the Year in the choice and magnet schools category. She has been in Dallas ISD for 31 years, and our students are so blessed to have her.

### More Outstanding Educators

Kudos to all the campus teachers and principals of the year, who give their all to our students every single day. You are the bedrock of our school district.

Also in District 6, here's a shoutout to Thomas Tolbert Elementary's principal, Dr. Lakeisha Smith-Bluitt, who was selected as the Kimball Feeder Pattern principal of the year.

### Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Benjamin K. of Kimball High and Taylor M. of Carter High, who were both awarded full scholarships to attend Texas Christian University in the fall as part of TCU's Community Scholars program. These four-year academic scholarships are valued at approximately \$300,000! You both make us so proud!

### Excellence in Sports Pays Off

Congrats also to Carter High School's golf team. Team members received scholarships from the Fairway to Success program.

And hats off to Kimball High School's basketball players who have signed up to join college rosters next year. Tylar Hankamer has signed up to play at Pittsburgh State University, Devin Lewis has committed to play at Redlands Jr. College, and Able Houston has signed up to play at Victoria College. Go, Knights! You are well on your way.

### Bragging Rights

It's a great thing to be able to drive around the city and see the billboards celebrating our Kimball Knights as UIL 5A state basketball champions. This team has made the whole city proud. The mayor even welcomed the team to City Hall and proclaimed a day in April as Justin F. Kimball Knights Day. What an honor!

And congratulations to the Lady Knights for claiming the 2023 UIL 11/12-5A Championship in track and field! Knights, you are on a roll!

## \$226K gifted in 43rd annual YMCA College Scholarship Awards

25 North Texas high school seniors will collectively receive academic scholarships of \$226K over the next four years through the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas Foundation. The funds are part of the 2023 Annual College Scholarship program. For more than two decades, the foundation has given nearly \$4 million dollars to support area students to attend colleges and universities.

"Students recognize the value of obtaining a college education and the opportunities weaved into the experience," said Kathryn Allen, President of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas Foundation. "The Foundation is proud to support graduates as they explore their passions and create their own path to a successful and fulfilling career ahead."

Selections for scholarships are based on college entrance scores, high school grades, maintaining at least a 2.5 GPA, financial circumstances, impact of community service, interview, and a personal written letter.

"As a parent, one of the most important things you want to see is your child succeed. And that's what this group of students have been able to do in the classroom," said Curt Hazelbak-



er, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. "Their strong work ethic, eagerness to learn, and drive has guided them throughout the last four years. This year's Y gift is to thank them for putting their education first and provide a foundation for their future."

Individuals were formally awarded during the The College Scholarship Reception on Thursday, May 11 at T. Boone Pickens YMCA.

The 25 students honored are individually supported by one of five scholarship funds, including: The Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, a \$3,000, four-year, renewable scholarship; The Dye Foundation Scholarship, a \$2,000, four-year renewable fund sponsoring students who wish to attend college anywhere in the world; The Fina Foundation and the

Jack C. Phipps Fund, a \$3,000, four-year, renewable scholarship which supports students who plan to major in law, math, science or international business; The Kathy Hamilton Scholarship, a \$2,500, four-year renewable scholarship for Grand Prairie High School graduates seeking a career in the fields of education, social work or community services (civic or non-profit); and The YMCA Chairman's Scholarship, a \$4,000, four-year renewable college scholarship, part of the Dallas YMCA Foundation.

### 2023 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD-EES:

- Julian Coleman, Catholic University of America - Chairman's Scholarship
- Terrance Thomas, University of Texas - King Foundation Scholarship
- Omar Jaber, Southern

Methodist University - King Foundation Scholarship

- Diego Marquez, Collin County Community College - King Foundation Scholarship

- Lauren Hatchett, Texas A&M at Corpus Christi - King Foundation Scholarship

- Natalie Uscanga, University of Texas at San Antonio - Kathy Hamilton Scholarship

- Hannah Beeler, University of Texas at Austin - Fina Foundation Scholarship

- Asmina Magar, Fordham University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Daniel Castillo-Martinez, Collin County Community College - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Jaimi Coleman, Loyola University at New Orleans - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Christopher Emery, University of North Texas - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Mia Orsini, Texas A&M University at San Antonio - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Angelica Moreno, Duke University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Brooke Marlett, Texas A&M University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Cithlally Brenes, University of Texas at Austin - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Reed Smith, Spelman College - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Anika Raybarman, University of Texas at Austin - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Ezgi Durakoglugil, University of Texas at Austin - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- George Lyke, University of Texas at Austin - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Catherine Dixon, Dallas Baptist University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Jaxson Stuart, Collin County Community College - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Kelli Drentlaw, Texas A&M University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Julian Gates, Alabama State University - Dye

Foundation Scholarship

- Jane Patton, Texas A&M University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

- Gloria Espinosa, Harvard University - Dye Foundation Scholarship

The first gift to the Endowment Fund was made by E.R. Brown, Chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors from 1919-1934. The will of Mr. Brown established a Trust to pay the YMCA and his church \$1,000 annually for maintenance, upkeep and operation. In the intervening years, many gifts have been received from those with similar interests for the perpetuity of the mission and growth of the YMCA's service to youth and families of the greater Dallas area.

In 1995, the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas Foundation was chartered as a Texas non-profit corporation to manage the investments and distribution of the endowment of the YMCA Foundation. A majority of the scholarships awarded to the students are from the F.W. & Bessie A. Dye Foundation scholarship fund, and the remaining scholarships are funded through community gifts and donated gifts to the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas Foundation.



# Allred campaign rakes in financial support for senate bid against Cruz

Congressman Colin Allred recently announced his U.S. Senate campaign against Ted Cruz, raising \$2 million in a little over a day. From more than 34,500 contributions, Allred earned, in 36 hours, well over what Ted Cruz earned over the first three months of this year, while clearing the record of \$1.6 million for the first day of Senate campaign fundraising this cycle.

A 4th generation Texan, Allred was born and raised in Dallas by a single mom, a public-school teacher, who he said, sometimes worked two jobs to make ends meet.

Thanks to his family and strong support system of teachers, coaches, and the YMCA, he earned a full scholarship to Baylor, and then went on to play in the NFL, he said.

But football was not his only dream. From a young age, he knew he wanted to help people. He was to become a civil rights attorney, defending our most fundamental right: the right to vote.

After serving in the Obama administration, he would run for Congress, beating the odds to defeat an 11-term Republican incum-

bent and helping Democrats flip the House blue in 2018.

"I ran for Congress because I wanted more kids in North Texas to have the opportunity to achieve their version of the American dream and protect the fundamental values of our democracy," he said.

"The political extremism that we are becoming increasingly known for is a real risk to our business community and our path forward," Allred said in a recent Dallas Morning News interview, "It's making some folks say they don't want to send their kids

to school in our state. We can go in a different direction," he said.

Allred has received praise from Texans across the state, including his colleagues Congressman Marc Veasey, Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar.

With CNN recently calling Ted Cruz one of the most vulnerable senators in the country, Allred's entrance has made the Texas U.S. Senate race highly competitive. This, reflected by the Cook Political Report's ratings change.



Courtesy photo

## Big Tex Scholarship Program awards more than \$1.3 million to Texas students

Since its establishment in 1992, the Big Tex® Scholarship Program has continued to uphold the State Fair's nonprofit mission of supporting agriculture, education, and community involvement. We are proud to announce another year of supporting Texas students through scholarships towards furthering their education, with the State Fair of Texas awarding more than \$1.3 million in new college scholarships this year. We are awarding 222 scholarships to deserving students across the Lone Star State: 97 Juanita Craft Scholarships to Dallas ISD students, 116 Youth Livestock Scholarships to students throughout Texas, five Seasonal Employee Scholarships, one Benny Clark Memorial Scholarship, one Peggy Sloan Memorial Scholarship, and two Terry Griffin Memorial Scholarships.

In its 31-year history, the Big Tex Scholarship Program has awarded scholarships to more than 3,000 students for a program total of more than \$17.4 million. Honoring the legacy of South Dallas resident and civil rights activist Juanita Craft, each year, the State Fair awards college scholarships to selected applicants from six

Dallas ISD high schools surrounding the Fair Park area – Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, Franklin D. Roosevelt, James Madison, Lincoln, North Dallas, and Woodrow Wilson high schools. In addition, the State Fair awards scholarships to select applicants across the state who have participated in youth livestock competitions at the State Fair of Texas. The Seasonal Employee Scholarship serves as a thank you to the Fair's seasonal employees for their hard work and dedication to the State Fair of Texas – both qualified seasonal employees and their dependents are eligible for this opportunity.

"To be awarded as a 2023 Big Tex Scholar, I feel incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity. I feel honored to be considered by an organization that dedicates so much to students' education," said Katie Kha, 2023 Big Tex Juanita Craft recipient from North Dallas High School. "This scholarship will help fund my future studies at Texas Woman's University and help me reach my career goals."

"Receiving the 2023 Big Tex Scholar scholarship is a dream come true for

me," said Elvin Johnson, 2023 Big Tex Seasonal Employee recipient, son to a seasonal coupon sales Team member. "Finances have always been a challenge in pursuing my educational aspirations. This scholarship has provided me with the financial assistance that I needed to pursue my studies and achieve my academic goals." Elvin plans to attend Richland College and major in animation.

"I am extremely honored to be selected as a Big Tex Scholarship recipient. I participated in stock showing for eight years and I was able to learn countless lessons that will be very helpful to me in the future," said 2023 Big Tex Youth Livestock Scholar Braxton Angeley of Shamrock, Texas. "I love showing, and I will miss being a part of it but receiving this scholarship helps me start the next chapter of my life. This scholarship will help me pay for my college education and I will be able to get an Agribusiness degree and one day own my own business." Braxton plans to attend West Texas A&M University.

A total of 97 graduating seniors from six Dal-

See TEX, Page 12

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# The Loop Dallas: A Park and Recreation Department vote put Dallas on track to be home of the largest, US-based mountain-bike trail within 10 miles of 600,000 people

The Loop Dallas and Dallas Off-Road Biking Association (DORBA) are bringing a world-class mountain bike trail system to the 9th largest city in the US by partnering with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department on a new 50-acre park for Dallas residents and visitors, called Creekside Park. Award-winning firm Singletrack Trails, based in Grand Junction, CO, has been retained to design and build national best practices in trail features and sustainability to one of the largest soft surface trail networks in the country, operated by DORBA.

"When I explained that this mountain-bike trail would be within 10 miles of over 600,000 people—a diverse community where many have no access to natural surface trails—it was a game changer," said Philip Hiatt Haigh, Executive Director of The Loop Dallas. "As we started planning for the development of Creekside Park, we knew leading trail builders in the country often pursue projects larger than 50-acre; they're used to building on hundreds of



acres in Colorado, Wyoming, Arkansas. To put this park into national perspective: Because of The Loop Dallas trail and the location of Creekside Park one mile south of White Rock Lake, more people are within 10 miles of this mountain bike trail system than live in the entire state of Wyoming. With unprecedented access to this population center, most of the trails will be for entry-level mountain-bike riders and children, making the sport accessible to a new and broad audience."

The Loop Dallas identified the opportunity to build mountain-bike trails alongside the Trinity Forest Spine Trail and secured funding for design and construction.

Working with DORBA leadership, The Loop Dallas and DORBA engaged Singletrack Trails—a national leader in sustainable, natural surface trail work—to design and build the 50-acre park for children, entry-level and experienced mountain-bike riders. The soft-surface trails will be made of natural and fabricated materials with maintenance and sustainability in mind. All DORBA trails are maintained with its volunteer corps of mountain-bike enthusiasts; Singletrack Trails' design and construction will make the volunteer work last longer and be easier to repair when damaged over time through use.

"The Loop Dallas board traveled to Bentonville, Arkansas, last year to learn from the Walton Family Foundation, which has supported over 260 miles of paved and singletrack trails in Northwest Arkansas. The Foundation's goal has been to build lots of trails as close as possible to the population centers. The idea is to have trails that people can easily access before work, after work, or even in the middle of the work day. Their advice was to put a heavy focus on entry-level mountain-bike riders and children, so people living near the trail can learn to enjoy it," Hiatt Haigh continued. "Typically, people who build mountain-bike trails build for themselves - you think to yourself, 'What would I like to ride?'. The Creekside Park system is intentionally accessible to the community. As the Walton Family Foundation recommended, most features will

be focused on new riders and people exploring the sport. The Loop Dallas trail runs right through Creekside and an active park around the trail will increase safety for walkers, runners and riders."

"This will be the first natural surface trail built in the City of Dallas in decades" said Sean Laughlin, DORBA Director of Development. "This trail system will give Dallas residents the opportunity to experience nature without having to leave the city as well as allow Dallas to compete with suburbs like McKinney and Frisco, which are investing in mountain bike parks and trails that residents are asking for."

In 2021, the number of participants (aged six years and above) in mountain/non-paved surface biking amounted to 8.69 million according to Statista, a leading provider of market and consumer data. The segment is mostly white

and male, but projects like Creekside Park can expand the sport's audience by introducing the sport to a racially and gender-diverse population.

About The Loop Dallas. The Loop Dallas will unite the nation's 9th largest city with a city-wide bike and pedestrian active transportation system that joins 39 miles of existing trails in Dallas with 11 miles of newly built trails. A catalyst for economic and physical mobility, The Loop will be a lifeline between Dallas communities—connecting people to public transportation, walkable green space and one another. When complete, the continuous trail will connect Dallas neighborhoods and destinations in north, south, east and west Dallas. As Dallas continues to grow and attract new businesses and residents, investing in a state-of-the-art transportation

See LOOP, Page 11



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# First national tour of critically acclaimed, record-breaking production of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' hits Dallas stage

Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America (BAA) announced today that tickets for the history-making production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

are on sale now for the premiere Dallas engagement at the Music Hall at Fair Park from May 16-28, as part of the Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas. Academy Award® winner Aaron Sorkin's new play, directed by Tony Award® winner Bartlett Sher and based on Harper Lee's classic novel will come to Dallas as part of a multi-year national tour across North America. For more information, please visit

[www.tokillamockingbirdbroadway.com](http://www.tokillamockingbirdbroadway.com)

Single tickets for *To Kill a Mockingbird* are on sale now and available at [BroadwayDallas.org](http://BroadwayDallas.org) or by calling 800-982-2787. Group orders of 10 or more may be



Julietta Cervantes / Courtesy photo

placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing [Groups@BroadwayDallas.org](mailto:Groups@BroadwayDallas.org).

Emmy Award®-winning actor Richard Thomas, who recently celebrated a 60-year anniversary of performing on both stage and screen, will play the role of Atticus Finch. Additional casting will be announced later.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* holds the record as the highest-grossing American play in Broadway history. It began performances on

November 1, 2018, at the Shubert Theatre and played to sold-out houses until the Broadway shutdown in March 2020. On February 26, 2020, *To Kill a Mockingbird* became the first-ever Broadway play to perform at New York's Madison Square Garden, in front of approximately 18,000 New York City public school students, also marking the largest attendance at a single performance of a play ever in world theater. The production resumed performances on October 5, 2021

and concluded its run at the Shubert Theatre on January 16, 2022. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is currently running at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End.

Set in Alabama in 1934, Harper Lee's enduring story of racial injustice and childhood innocence centers on one of the most venerated characters in American literature, small-town lawyer Atticus Finch. The cast of characters includes Atticus's daughter Scout, her brother Jem, their housekeeper and caretaker, Calpurnia, their visiting friend Dill, and a mysterious neighbor, the reclusive Arthur "Boo" Radley. The other indelible residents of Maycomb, Alabama, are Bob Ewell, Tom Robinson, prosecutor Horace Gilmer, Judge Taylor and Mayella Ewell.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is designed by Miriam

Buether, with costumes by Ann Roth, lighting by Jennifer Tipton, sound by Scott Lehrer and an original score by Adam Guettel. Casting by Telsey and Co. The national tour is produced by Barry Diller.

Richard Thomas (Atticus Finch) last appeared on Broadway in the revival of *The Little Foxes*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He has been seen in acclaimed performances on stage including *You Can't Take It with You*, *Race*, *Democracy*, *Incident at Vichy* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *The Stendhal Syndrome* (Lucille Lortel Award and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), *A Naked Girl on the Appian Way*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Tiny Alice*, *The Front Page*, *The Fifth of July*, innumerable Shakespeare productions, and his professional debut

at 7 years old in *Sunrise at Campobello* on Broadway. He was last seen on national tour in the award-winning productions of *The Humans* (Elliot Norton Award) and *Twelve Angry Men*. Thomas is an Emmy Award-winning actor beloved for his performance in the iconic series "The Waltons." His feature film performances include Frank Perry's *Last Summer*, James Goldstone's *Red Sky at Morning*, James Bridges' *September 30, 1955*, Curtis Hanson's *Wonder Boys*, Ang Lee's *Taking Woodstock* and Nora Fingscheidt's *The Unforgivable* (Netflix). He is best known to contemporary television audiences for his work in the critically renowned series "The Americans" as well as his appearances on "Billions," the limited series "Tell Me Your Secrets" and the Netflix series "Ozark."

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# NDG Book Review: 'King: A Life' is a fast but interesting read

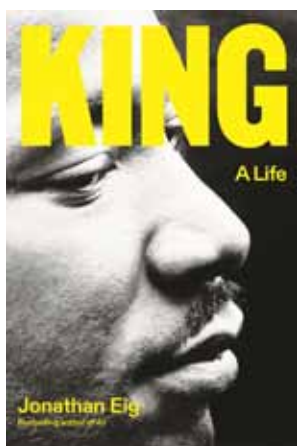
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The life of the hero you most admire has been an open book.

For much of your life, you've read about him, watched him on television, and heard epic stories about him. Sometimes, your hero almost feels like a close personal friend; absolutely, he's someone you want to be like. So read the new book, "King: A Life" by Jonathan Eig and find out all the things you don't know.

Head to your local bookstore or library, and you'll find thousands of "excellent biographies" about Martin Luther King Jr. You'll find books on his work, beliefs, and his activism. Still, says Jonathan Eig, "the literature remains incomplete" – in part, because those books don't tell much about King as a flawed, irritated, exhausted human.

Says Eig, "King was a man, not a saint, not a symbol. He chewed his fingernails. He shouted at the TV during quiz shows." He



cheated on his wife for so many years that "friends referred to [one] woman as his second wife."

By the time he was a year old, young King had three names: Michael, Marvin, and Martin; his father adopted the name Martin Luther "after a few years," and the younger King was then called M.L. As the middle child and older son, young Martin was close to his sister but tussled with his younger brother, sometimes violently. The elder Martin was a preacher, and M.L. said that God had called him to do the same – though he later claimed that he "tried to escape" the "responsibility on [his] shoulders, and grew frustrated."

King was a ladies' man who fell in love with a white woman before meeting Coretta Scott. He often felt insecure and had a "tendency to depression." He "found strength in words," vowing in a fiery speech in December of 1955 that "the world would change."

Their time had come. He promised."

Since his activism as a young man and his assassination more than a half-century ago, surely everything there is to know about Martin Luther King Jr has been told, right?

Surprisingly, no, as author Jonathan Eig shows. In "King: A Life," readers are given a glimpse of a man who was more complicated and flawed than we've seen before.

Part of the revelation lies in the stories Eig tells about King and the many people in King's circle, friends, family, and colleagues. It's in these tales that we see a King that contemporary accounts generally didn't

See KING, Page 13

## WASHINGTON, from Page 1

South. Washington privately contributed substantial funds for legal challenges to segregation and disfranchisement, such as the case of Giles v. Harris, heard before the United States Supreme Court in 1903.

Even when such challenges were won at the Supreme Court, southern states quickly responded with new laws to accomplish the same ends, for instance, adding "grandfather clauses" that covered whites and not Black people to prevent them from voting. Because of Washington's influential leadership, the timespan of his activity, from 1880 to 1915, has been called the Age of Booker T. Washington.

Often asked for politi-

cal advice by Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft, Washington worked well with other people regardless of their races, ethnicities, religion, and political affiliation.

Dr. Rush has other notable relatives. Washington's daughter, Portia, was married to William Sidney Pittman, a well-known architect, who built among other notable buildings, the Knights of Pythia dance hall, which was later remodeled into a hotel and named in William S. Pittman's honor. Notably, Uncle Duke Slater was the first Black lineman in the NFL and a municipal court judge in Cook County Superior Court in Chicago. Slater was recently enshrined in

the NFL Hall of Fame.

Also related to Dr. Rush is Diane Watson, a retired Congresswoman from Los Angeles and aunt on her mother's side, Sarah H. Meriwether Nutter, who was one of the original founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first Black sorority. Ms. Nutter also became the first national secretary. As an educator, her profession was considered most critical to the advancement of African American citizens.

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Calderon and Scott B. - Melrose House ("To Kill a Mockingbird") and Jacqueline Williams ("Calderon") Photos by John Carrasco



# IRS creating software to 'shake up' tax prep business

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Three current and former Internal Revenue Service employees say that the IRS has quietly built a prototype system to let Americans file their tax returns digitally and for free.

According to a published report, the move amounts to government software that could shake up the tax-prep business.

The IRS and the U.S. Digital Service, a technology advisory arm of the White House, created the software.

A small group of taxpayers will have access through a trial program by January 2024, when the 2023 filing season starts, according to people who were briefed on the matter but asked to remain anonymous to talk about internal agency conversations.

The Inflation Reduction Act from last year, one of President Biden's most critical congressional wins, gave the IRS \$15 million to look into making a direct filing program.

The tax office reportedly asked the New America



According to a published report, the move amounts to government software that could shake up the tax-prep business. The IRS and the U.S. Digital Service, a technology advisory arm of the White House, created the software. (Photo via NNPA)

think tank, which leans to the left, to look into the issue and write a report due this week.

Currently, the IRS sends people who want to file for free to a group of companies offering free e-filing to taxpayers with incomes below a certain amount.

The Washington Post noted a report from the Government Accountability Office that said that even though 70% of taxpayers are eligible for these goods, less than 3% use them.

Industry giants Intuit TurboTax and H&R Block offer free goods that the IRS does not officially back

for a smaller group of taxpayers.

IBIS World, a research company, says the paid tax preparation services market will be worth \$14.4 billion this year.

A free filing system from the federal government could upset that market.

By most accounts, the method of using commercial programs for online filing has been good for both taxpayers and the government.

The IRS said approximately 9 of 10 individual tax returns were made digitally in 2022.

Additionally, years of

study in the U.S. and Europe show that the U.S. voluntary tax compliance rate of 85.1% is among the highest of developed economies.

The percentage of tax filers who pay their federal taxes correctly each year also reportedly remains high.

But some experts say that the private-public partnership shows the IRS's lack of technology.

The Inflation Reduction Act gave the IRS \$80 billion over ten years to help it crack down on people with high incomes, improve services for taxpayers, and update its technology.

The Biden administration said that the IRS needs more money to catch tax cheats and help low- and middle-income Americans qualify for various tax credits.

When the IRS told Congress how it planned to spend that money in April,

Commissioner Daniel Werfel said the agency would think about a "question-based electronic service to prepare and file tax returns directly with the IRS."

Through secure online portals, taxpayers could also ask for help from customer service agents under the plan.

This could cut into another way that tax prep companies try to be different from the IRS by offering premium services that include lawyers and ac-

countants.

Disclosures show that Intuit spent more than \$1 million lobbying the House and Senate from January to March on topics like "tax system integrity" and "protecting intellectual property."

According to its disclosure papers, H&R Block spent \$720,000 on lobbying for anti-poverty tax credits, "tax administration," and "Internal Revenue Service funding" during the same period.

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## CRUELTY, from Page 5

sociation (TACA). "Prosecutors trying these cases often see the same offenders over and again, sometimes immediately after the conclusion of the offender's last criminal case. This legislation makes it clear that someone convicted of animal cruelty cannot own

an animal and establishes a Class B misdemeanor for repeat offenders."

Current law does not prevent people convicted of animal cruelty from acquiring more animals, causing legitimate concern that Texas law does not adequately prevent future violence. HB

598 addresses this concern and aims to keep animals out of an environment with a convicted animal abuser.

"While HB 598 is not an end all be all solution, it is a first step toward interrupting the cycle of abuse at its earliest stages and making Texas safer for our communities," concluded Bobosky.

## LOOP, from Page 8

tion system that connects neighborhoods throughout the city is one of the most important investments Dallas can make for our residents for generations to come. To learn more about construction and connectivity, please visit [www.theloopdallas.org](http://www.theloopdallas.org).

The Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DOR-

BA) is a 501c(3) nonprofit that manages and maintains over 200 miles of trails in North Texas and works with land-owners to ensure public access to multi-use, natural surface trails. Based in Dallas, DORBA has been advocating and maintaining trails since 1988. Over 400 volunteers annually donate time to maintain 20 trails in

the Metroplex. Learn more at [www.dorba.org](http://www.dorba.org).

Singletrack Trails is a leader in sustainable, natural surface trail building and design from mountain-bike trails to hike, climb and horse trails, our projects provide the foundations for incredible outdoor recreation and the synthesis of connection. Learn more about our work at [www.singletracktrails.com](http://www.singletracktrails.com).



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# Author Pepper Miller shares proven formula for understanding and reaching Black consumers

(Black PR Wire) -- Reaching the Black consumer can be daunting if those trying to make a connection lack the depth, heft or the information gathering skills required to capture their loyalty and coveted dollars. Those stymied about how to execute a campaign targeted to this valuable segment can now turn to a must-read book for perspectives, insights and proven-effective strategies.

The book, *Let Me Explain Black Again*, by award-winning market researcher Pepper Miller, provides a blueprint on how to understand, appreciate, navigate and, execute successful campaigns that appeal to Blacks.

The overarching resolve

in writing the book is to promote understanding of Black America among business leaders and society as a whole.

As president of respected market research firm, The Hunter-Miller Group, Miller brings decades of research of Black America, observing trends, and counseling corporations like AARP, CNN, Bravo, BET, P & G, Walgreens, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and more.

With both extensive knowledge and instincts, Miller has emerged as the preeminent authority on how to market to Blacks. From her position atop the industry, her antennae are wired into issues that impact Blacks and promote a broader societal

understanding of all things Black.

She is not casting a punitive shadow over white America but is providing information about what makes "Black Black." To this end, a dismissive query by a limited-perspective marketer jarred Miller: "They speak English, don't they?" This quote speaks to mainstream America's long-standing biases and their beliefs that language is a cultural identifier.

Responding to the question, Pepper defiantly retorted: "Yes, I speak English, but are you talking to me?" With that question as a catalyst, *Let Me Explain Black Again* addresses the bias behind the question and zones in on the "whys," "hows" and

"how-tos" of understanding and reaching the Black consumer in its totality.

The benefits have a domino effect as business leaders, brands and society then have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Black identity, behaviors, and beliefs. As a result, stronger connections can be solidified.

The simple statement that piqued actionable steps was: "Pepper, I didn't know." This lament has been directed to Pepper confidentially and coyly by a number of attendees after she wraps a research study, speaking engagement or after her flagship Black insights workshops and presentations. The "Pepper I didn't know" reveal is one of the drivers in the book.

The other two are:

- Millennial power: They desire a nation of equality and are on the front lines of political and cultural change. Black Millennials drive Black progress and identity and continue to be highly influential to American culture.

- Three American disrupters: Trump/COVID/George Floyd collectively, have contributed to America's A-Ha moment about race and how they view different audiences.

Miller encourages readers to rethink their perceptions of Black by guiding them through a broad range of topics that focus on Black identity. She explains SEVEN BLINDSPOTS that prevent business leaders from

getting it right with their Black customers.

She also introduces readers to cultural shape-shifters within the Black community who not only influence and support the Black community but are also redefining mainstream cultural norms. Miller hopes the reader will 'get' the sensitivities, and Black cultural nuances that yield authentic connections and win/win relationships with the Black consumer. *Let Me Explain Black Again* can be purchased from Amazon, where all books are sold, or by ordering the book by logging on to [paramountbooks.com](http://paramountbooks.com).

For more information on Pepper Miller, log on to [peppermiller.net](http://peppermiller.net).

## TEX, from Page 7

las ISD high schools were awarded the State Fair of Texas Juanita Craft Scholarship. Five recipients were awarded the State Fair of Texas Seasonal Employee Scholarship, and a total of 116 Youth Livestock Scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors from across the Lone Star State.

Recipients receive a

\$6,000 grant, renewable each semester if the student meets the criteria for renewal. Students must attend an accredited college, university, or trade school within the state of Texas. To qualify for scholarship renewal, recipients must enroll in and pass a minimum of 12 hours each semester. In addition, recipients must

achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA in their first semester and a 3.0 cumulative GPA for every semester thereafter.

The State Fair also awards several ancillary scholarships where outstanding students are awarded an additional \$6,000 over four years to combine with the initial awarded \$6,000 scholarship, for a grand total of

\$12,000 to put towards higher education.

Receiving this year's Benny Clark Memorial Scholarship, Landen Schertz embodies the qualities of a strong leader in agriculture education.

Awarded to a strong leader and graduating senior from Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, this year's recipient of the Peg-

gy Sloan Memorial Scholarship is Jessica Hyde.

The Terry Griffin Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding sophomore in the Big Tex Scholarship Program with the highest GPA. This year's recipients are Youth Livestock Scholar, Dane Sullivan and Juanita Craft Scholar, Natalie Rosa.

The Fair congratulates all of these deserving

scholars on their personal and academic achievements and is excited to support them in pursuing their aspirations for higher education and the future of Texan youth. Local scholarship recipients and their families will enjoy an awards fair hosted by the State Fair of Texas, celebrating the 2023 Scholars and all their accomplishments.

## MAGUGU, from Page 2

Group in 2021.

As a rising star in his field, Dr. Magugu has served as a reviewer for the *Agroforestry Systems Journal* since 2016 and is a longtime member of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences and the Decision

Support System for Agro-Technology Transfer Community. He is the author of a peer-reviewed paper on agroforestry technology that has been cited more than a dozen times, and has led climate change-focused curriculum development ef-

forts around the globe. Dr. Magugu credits his success to his resilience, grit, and a relentless pursuit of his passions, and he remains committed to working to reduce global poverty and climate change throughout his career. In the coming years, he hopes to partner with an organization such

as the United Nations Food Development Programme to work on global food insecurity infrastructure, and eventually hopes to return to Kenya in order to give back through research and policy work.

Magugu has been included in Marquis Who's Who®, which since 1899,

when A. N. Marquis printed the First Edition, has chronicled the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every significant field of endeavor, including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment. Marquis celebrates its 125th anni-

versary in 2023, and Who's Who in America® remains an essential biographical source for thousands of researchers, journalists, librarians and executive search firms around the world. Marquis® publications may be visited at its website at [www.marquiswhoswho.com](http://www.marquiswhoswho.com)

## VACCINE, from Page 4

VID-19 vaccine jabs since even those with professed educated admitted mistrust. A lack of COVID-19 themed literature geared specifically to Black communities was also found to be problematic for the

Black community.

The study suggests link between systematic racism in the healthcare network and lagging COVID-19 trust should be addressed by addressing and finding solutions to combat

systematic racism within the healthcare system and creating credible and resourceful healthcare literature that will boost confidence in COVID-19 vaccines in these communities.

The study was spearheaded by Professor Jude

Mary Cénat, who serves as the Chair of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health at the University of Ottawa. As an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology within the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Cénat oversees research initiatives that

investigate racial inequalities in health and social services. Vaccine mistrust among Black individuals in Canada: The major role of health literacy, conspiracy theories, and racial discrimination in the healthcare system, by Jude Mary Cénat, Seyed Mo-

hammad Mahdi Moshirian Farahi, Schwab Mulopo Bakombo, Rose Darly Dalexis, Roland Pongou, Lisa Caulley, Sanni Yaya, Josephine Etowa, Vivek Venkatesh was published in the *Journal of Medical Virology* on April 24, 2023.



## Colorful films could help buildings, cars keep their cool

INDIANAPOLIS — The cold blast of an air conditioner can bring relief as temperatures soar during the summer, but air conditioners use a high amount of energy and can leak potent greenhouse gases.

Though not at disastrous levels yet, incremental increases in global temperatures are already causing increased wildfires, super-charged storms, floods, and droughts, the Natural Resources Defense Council reports. As temperatures continue to inch upward, regions where infrastructure and housing have not been built to protect from this heat, will suffer most.

Scientists now report a plant-based film that gets cooler when exposed to sunlight. Without adding pigment, this material can be made into iridescent, colorful films to beautify buildings and cool their surroundings. In the future, these cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), derived from the cellulose found in plants, will be capable of keeping buildings, cars and other structures cool without external power.

Passive daytime radiative cooling (PDRC) occurs when a surface emits its own heat without the

atmosphere absorbing it. The result -- a surface several degrees colder than the air around it. When used on buildings or structures, materials that promote this effect can reduce the need for air conditioning.

"To make materials that remain cooler than the air around them during the day, you need something that reflects a lot of solar light and doesn't absorb it, which would transform energy from the light into heat," says Silvia Vignolini, Ph.D., the project's principal investigator. "There are only a few materials that have this property, and adding color pigments would typically undo their cooling effects," Vignolini adds -- Colored pigments, by definition, absorb specific wavelengths of sunlight and only reflect the colors we see, causing undesirable warming effects in the process.

Since creating these first films, researchers have been modifying methods based on previous approaches to improve their aesthetic appearance, creating films that are glittery and colorful and adjusting the ethyl cellulose to create different textures and wood finishes to be used in architecture and

interior design, says Shen. These changes will give people more options when

incorporating PDRC effects in homes, businesses, cars and structures.



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## ELIJAH, from Page 2

Set in the DMV area (D.C., Maryland, Virginia), you will feel the east coast energy and swag throughout the project," Elijah says.

Since 2019, Pavillon Afriques has had over 2,000 participants from five continents at the Cannes Film Festival. The ultimate objective is to increase representation of filmmakers, talent and producers who identify with African heritage, create networking opportunities and to continue to grow the film industry in Africa. This year, the Pavillon is set to also screen Tina Knowles Lawson (mother of superstar Beyonce) and Richard Lawson's new film "Black Terror" along with a screening of Joe Morton's (ABC's Scandal), new TV Series "Inside the Black Box."

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# I'd Rather Kiss A Goat

By James L. Snyder

There are very few things in my life I regret, at least that I can remember.

One of the good things about getting old is that you can forget many things. The important thing is to forget the right thing, which is a challenge. You can be sure I work on this all the time. It takes a really good memory to forget the right things.

What I regret the most is that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage never met my good old Uncle Fred. If she had met him, she would understand me more than she does today. She would understand why I am as crazy as I am. The problem is, she still would want to try to fix me.

One phrase I remember the most about Uncle Fred is, "I'd rather kiss a goat." I can't tell you how many times I heard him say this. Where he got this phrase is a mystery to everyone who knew him.

If someone invited him to an activity he didn't want to attend, he usually would respond by saying, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

People would smile because nobody had any idea what he was saying.

A friend once asked him, "Fred, will you watch the football game tonight?"

Looking at him as seriously as possible, Fred said, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

Knowing him as I did, he wasn't antisocial; he just liked to get under people's skin. Everything was a joke

to him, and most people didn't realize it. So they always took Uncle Fred seriously, which he wanted.

As a teenager, I spent time with him working in his garden one summer. He had a fantasy for garden work. If it could be planted, he would plant it. He had the best garden in the whole neighborhood at the time. Some plants in his garden I could not identify. Years later, much to my dismay, I found what some were, which explained a lot.

While spending time with him, I asked, "Uncle Fred, what do you mean when you say, I would rather kiss a goat? Do you really mean that?"

I had been thinking about this question for a long time, and at this point, I had

the opportunity to ask him.

"Well, son," he said rather slowly, "it's a very interesting thing."

I have no idea what it means, and the people I say it to have no idea what I mean." He finished by laughing hysterically.

Then he explained that it was better to confuse people sometimes than try to explain something.

"For instance, if somebody wants you to do something and you don't want to do it but don't want to hurt their feelings, it's best to confuse them. That's where I come in and say, I'd rather kiss a goat."

According to him, he got out of many sticky situations by saying that.

"Just don't tell anybody I said that." He looked at me

and then winked. I wondered if he was telling me the truth or just what he wanted me to know.

It was his way of getting along with people he liked but not doing what they wanted him to do.

It was the summer before Uncle Fred died that we had our family reunion. Just about everyone was there, and it was the last one that I got to go to.

Everyone was there except my grandfather. He was Fred's brother. Nobody knew where he was and was concerned because he never missed a family reunion.

Then, out of nowhere, my grandfather drove in, and in his truck was a goat. So he got out of the truck, brought the goat out, walked over to

Fred, and said, "How about kissing this goat?"

Of course, Uncle Fred was stunned by the action, and everyone except Uncle Fred broke out in almost uncontrollable laughter.

Only my grandfather could pull one on Uncle Fred. I'm unsure how long it took him to put this kind of plan together, and he surely deserves credit.

I sure do miss Uncle Fred and wish The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would've had an opportunity to meet him. I'm afraid, though, she might've given him a goat to kiss but not what he had in mind.

Sometimes you don't really appreciate a person until after they're gone. The

See SNYDER, Page 16

## Tough Parents

By Daris Howard

Out of the blue, an old friend, Randy, called me. It was a couple of days before Mother's Day, and he seemed to have been thinking about his mother and mine, who had both passed away. He didn't say so directly, but the topic turned that way.

I knew he was overseas and wondered what time it was there.

"Oh," he said, "it's two o'clock in the morning."

"You've got to be kidding," I replied. "What are you doing up at this hour?"

He laughed. "I'm retired, unlike someone else I know. I can do anything I want."

He said he had been working on something and hadn't noticed the time. But then he got thinking about home. He couldn't find a phone number for any friends from our childhood days, but he knew we were connected on Facebook, so he called me on FaceTime.

We kept it to audio only, and even that pushed the boundaries of understandability, but it was fun to hear from him and consider old memories.

"Do you remember growing up and all the work we had to do?" Randy asked. "There were always cows to be milked, pipe to move, and hay to haul. I think we had the meanest parents in the world."

"I remember," I replied.

"While all of our friends were off having fun, we had to work," he said. "I think our parents were afraid that having a little fun might ruin us."

I laughed. "Well, you know, some of the supposedly fun things our friends did weren't all that good."

"Yeah," Randy said, "I got in on a few of those. I probably would have been in on more if I hadn't been so busy."

"I know it kept me out of trouble," I replied. "My dad always said, 'An idle boy is a boy getting into mischief.' I know my dad didn't plan on that happening to me."

"There was one big problem with all the work," Randy said. "I didn't do very well in school."

"Because you didn't have time to study?" I asked.

"No. It was more like not seeing how book learning was going to help me with milking cows or changing

pipe. I couldn't see the value of it. But you excelled in school. Why the difference?"

"I didn't mind the physical work," I said. "But I didn't want to do manual labor all my life. I saw education as a means to move up into a career. I would say it was the hard work that motivated me."

"The difference in our attitudes is interesting," Randy replied. "It did have that effect later in my life. But didn't you just wish you didn't have to get up at five to milk cows, then grab breakfast on your way to the bus?"

I laughed. "But you've got to admit, those cinnamon rolls your mom made while you were milking were the best. Remember how we'd all scheme to get some away from you?"

Randy chuckled. "Oh, I remember. Lenny was the worst. He had more tricks up his sleeve than anyone I know."

"Do you remember how, after a hard day of work, sweaty and tired, we'd go to the river for a swim?"

"That always felt good," Randy said.

"Do you remember

the horse riding for cattle drives, the late-night cooking around the fires, or the times we slept out under the stars?"

"Oh, I remember," Randy replied. "You know, when I called you, I wanted to commiserate with you about what I thought was

the worst growing-up in the world. I thought about how tough we had it. But now I realize it made us what we are."

"I hope that's a good thing," I said.

"It is," Rod replied. "Now that I think about it, I wouldn't trade how we

grew up for anything in the world, mean parents and all."

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

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# The Secret of the Bended Knees



**Sister Tarpley**  
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Have you ever watched a bird sleeping on its perch and never falling off? How does it manage to do this?

The secret is the tendons of the bird's legs. They are so constructed that when the legs are bent at the knees, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap.

The claws refuse to let go until the knees are unbent again. The bended knees give the bird the ability to hold on to his perch so tightly.

This experience can be the secret of the holding power of the Christian. Daniel found this to be true. Surrounded by pagan environment and tempted to compromise with evil when urged to



weaken his grip on God, he refused to let go.

Daniel held firm when others faltered because he was a man of prayer. He knew the power of the bended knees.

Furthermore, from sleeping birds we can learn the secret of holding things that are most precious to us.

That secret is the knees bent in prayer, seeking to get a firmer grip on those values that make life

worth living.

When we hold firmly to God in prayer, we can be assured He will hold tightly to us.

When You Want To Ask God Why? God said that because you have longed to save My World, I have let you have the training that prepares you to save.

Take your pains and sufferings, your difficulties and hardships each day and offer them up for one troubled soul or for some

prayer especially needed to be answered.

And, the beauty of each day will live on after the trouble and distress; the difficulty and pain of the day have passed.

Learn from Me of the suffering that saves others. So that you will sing in your pain; across the grayest days are the gleams of sunlight.

See not the small trials and vexations of each hour of the day. See the one purpose and plan to which all are leading.

If in climbing a mountain you keep your eyes on each stony or difficult place, as you ascend, seeing only that, how weary and profitless your climb.

But, if you think of each step as leading to the summit of achievement, from which glories and beauties will open out before, then your climb will be so different. If in doubt, ask those that won the Gold, Silver and Bronze in any

Olympic.

Obedience With a Cost. "Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has brought trouble upon this people and You have not rescued Your people at all." Exodus 5:23

Have you ever felt like you have been obedient to the Lord for something He called you to do and all you get are more road-blocks?

This is the way Moses must have felt when he went to tell Pharaoh to release the people because God said so, Pharaoh sim-

ply got angry and made the people make bricks without straw.

Moses caught the blame for this from the people. Moses was just learning what obedience really means in God's Kingdom.

You see, Moses had not even begun to release plagues upon Egypt. He hadn't even gotten started yet in his calling, and he was complaining about his circumstances.

There were many more encounters with Pharaoh to come and many more

**See KNEES, Page 16**

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## KING, from Page 10

reveal, but that “thousands of recently released FBI documents and tens of thousands of other new items...” have shed light on.

In that, we learn much about the turbulent relationships that King had, broadly, and specifically with politics and presidents. There’s a fair amount of edginess and intrigue in that and, giv-

en the time-frame, a sense of doom.

The size of “King: A Life” may be daunting, but don’t let it scare you. It’s a surprisingly fast read that includes things you know and things you don’t know. Truly, you’re going to want to open this book.

*(Jacket design by Tré Seals, Used by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux)*

## SNYDER, from Page 14

more I think of Uncle Fred, the more I appreciate his phrase, “I’d rather kiss a goat.”

It all came to a head when the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, “Would you like to go shopping with the girls and me?”

Trying not to smile, I looked at her and said, “I’d rather kiss a goat.”

Glaring at me with one of “those glares,” she said, “What did you say? Did you just call me a goat?”

Oh boy, do I have some ‘splainin’ to do?

As I was trying to figure out my defense, I was reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37, “But I say

unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

The most important thing is to understand that God will hold me accountable for every word I speak, even those idle words.

*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.whatafel-lowship.com.*

## KNEES, from Page 15

plagues with no deliverances in sight. Why would God tell Moses that He is going to deliver them and not do it?

It was all in timing. God never said when He was going to deliver. He just said He would. In the next chapter of the story, we find Moses arguing with God about not being capable of the job that God had

called him to do.

But, Moses said to the Lord, “If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?” Now, the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and He commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Exodus 6:12-13.

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Ashlee Reyes  
Jedoria Richards  
Angel Rios  
Janet Rivas Reza  
Kennady Robinson  
Deyanira Romero  
Cristian Ruvalcaba  
Alexander Sanchez  
Alexis Sanchez Serrano  
Erandy Segura  
Miguel Solis  
Annette Soto  
Aisha Torres  
Tram Tran  
Fatima Zambrano

#### IRMA LERMA RANGEL YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Belinda Alonso  
Yadira Chavez Reyes

Mariana Garcia  
Jessica Hyde  
Cristy Juarez  
Ashley Lopez  
Michelle Lopez  
Mariana Mares Solano  
Xitlaly Matehuala  
Jennifer Mendoza  
Melanie Mota  
Leslie Quintero  
Jessica Ramirez  
Jennifer Ramirez  
Mendoza  
Valerie Reyes  
Vivianne Valdes Pereira  
Ashley Vazquez  
Ashley Vela

#### WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

Katherine Farner  
Taylor Guerrero  
Stefany Guzman  
Celeste Jaramillo  
Judith Manzanarez  
Audrey Robertson  
Diana Ruiz  
Sofia Sanchez  
Natalia Vales Rivera

