



# North Dallas Gazette

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## IRS admits to targeting Black taxpayers for audits

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel has acknowledged what many have known for some time: Black taxpayers face an IRS audit exponentially more than other groups. Werfel acknowledged the disparity in a letter last week in which he responded to a request for information about the "apparent racial disparity" in selecting tax returns for audit, along with a plan to address the issue.

"Let me start by stressing that the IRS is committed to enforcing tax laws in a fair and impartial manner," Werfel said in the letter addressed to the U.S. Senate.

"When evidence of unfair treatment is presented, we must take immediate action to address it. It is also important to reiterate that we do not and will not consider race as part of our case selection and audit processes."

He continued: "Nevertheless, a recent study estimated, using imputed race values, that Black taxpayers are audited at three to five times the rate of non-Black taxpayers."

The research suggests, most of the disparity is driven by dif-



Werfel acknowledged the disparity in a letter this week in which he responded to a request for information about the "apparent racial disparity" in selecting tax returns for audit, along with a plan to address the issue. (Photo via NNPA)

ferences in correspondence audit rates among taxpayers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Deeply concerned by the findings, they are committed to doing the work necessary to understand and address any disparate impacts of their actions, he said.

Werfel noted that as soon as Congress confirmed his appointment, he met with an IRS team that had already studied the issue of race discrimination in audits.

He noted that the research has continued as authorities try to pinpoint what drives the disparity and how to fix the issue.

Researchers discovered that

Black taxpayers are five times more likely to face an audit when filing federal returns than any other race.

When President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS received \$80 billion, which the agency pledged to use to determine a better system to eliminate such discrimination.

"Back in March, my colleagues and I raised alarms with the new IRS boss about Black taxpayers being over-audited, and today he confirmed our suspicions," tweeted Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.).

See IRS, Page 7



### The betrayal of Afghan women and democracy

- See Page 3



### A balance in news helps mental health

- See Page 4



### Biden strikes optimistic tone on debt

- See Page 5



### Dallas College students revive local memory

- See Page 6



### Carrollton observes Public Works Week

- See Page 7



### DFCIO to bring Oscar-winner to Dallas event

- See Page 9



### Black art in focus at new museum show

- See Page 10



### Sister Tarpley: Where is Your Dwelling Place?

- 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 ...



Ekene Odigwe



Ian Taylor Schlitz

NDG Quote of the Week: "Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Ekene Odigwe

DENVER, (24-7Press-Release) -- AfrofutureDAO, a Web3 launchpad creating opportunities for African creatives, has completed its collaborative project called artStorm. The project brought together community-based teams of place makers and street artists to revamp 20 brown, disused, or polluted spaces in Nairobi and Kilifi, Kenya. These transformed spaces are now clean, safe, inclusive, and vibrant for the community to enjoy. The walls of these places were adorned by some of



the region's top street artists, including Alfred Wango, Christine Karuma, Paul Gichi, and Ndereva Mutua, while placemaking teams transformed brown spaces into green ones.

AfrofutureDAO also minted the artwork into Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), which are currently available for purchase on the blockchain platform. Part of the proceeds from the sale will support the growth of artists and green spaces in urban areas in Africa.

Africa's digital nomad and Web3 operations pioneer, who is currently the AfrofutureDAO's Operations Lead, Ekene Odigwe, created the training program for the artists, established a smooth onboarding process, and set up the platform for the sale of the

NFTs. In describing the success of the ArtStorm collection, Mr Odigwe said, "This achievement is a testament to the potential of blockchain and Web3 technologies to revolutionize the African art scene.

We will continue to explore the prospects of art, web3, and blockchain technology to support and promote the development of green spaces in African urban areas. We aim to discover and onboard more African artists to web3 and blockchain."

The collection, themed African Streets of the Future, is now live on the

foundation and can be accessed at <https://foundation.app/collection/artstorm>.

The floor price for these NFTs is 1.00 Eth, and part of the proceeds from sales will be used to support the growth of artists and green spaces in urban areas in Africa.

Artstorm is a collaboration of AfrofutureDAO, ethsafari DAO, Public Space Network, and About Art Africa.

Ekene Odigwe is a digital nomad and Web3 operations pioneer. He advocates for the adoption of block-

chain and Web3 technologies in Africa and is passionate about creating new opportunities for African creatives.

AfrofutureDAO is a decentralized autonomous organization (DAO) that aims to promote the adoption of blockchain and Web3 technologies in Africa. The organization supports African artists, entrepreneurs, and developers by providing them with access to funding, mentorship, and other resources. Its mission is to create a decentralized and equitable future for African creatives.

## Ian Taylor Schlitz

STEPHENVILLE - 17-year-old Ian Taylor Schlitz received his Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas this past Friday. With his graduation, Ian became one of the world's youngest, and the youngest African American to ever earn their MBA degree, all at the age of 17.



and navigating the graduate school application process during a global pandemic. Committed to learning more about business, Ian was accepted into the MBA program at Tarleton State University and enrolled in

the Fall of 2021.

Ian's path to academic excellence started when he enrolled at Tarrant County Community College at the age of 11 in 2016. He would transfer to University of North Texas in 2020 and graduate with honors a year later. It was his passion for video games that would lead him to the Tarleton State University MBA program.

As an avid Esports participant, Ian participated in many gaming tournaments. It was his participation in local and regional Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournaments where he noticed that there were few kids

his age playing in them. Ian found this interesting because he knew that video games sales and popularity have and continue to be driven by kids. It was this observation and discussion with his parents that would lead Ian to launch Kidlamity Gaming with the mission to bring gaming back

to kids.

Kidlamity Gaming was very successful during their initial year hosting many local Super Smash Bros, with tournaments across DFW. Ian built Kidlamity Gaming on an approach to keep his costs down by partnering with local businesses to host tournaments.

As with most businesses, the COVID-19 global pandemic impacted Kidlamity, and the in-person tournaments were indefinitely postponed.

During COVID-19, Ian pivoted his business focus to the creation of BeinBian

See SCHLITZ, Page 6

## Linda Peavy

(Black PR.com) -- Linda Peavy, the owner and founder of LiPav Consulting, LLC, has pledged to offer free online grant training to 23,000 Black organizations. Her company has written grants and business development funding totaling over \$17 million and believes that too many black organizations, especially for-profits, are leaving free money on the table. COVID-19 and the George Floyd incident created unprecedented grant funds for Black organizations. Due to COVID-19, thousands of small businesses were forced to lay off workers or shut their doors completely. Accord-



ing to a Forbes article, because of limited financial assets and the lack of accumulated wealth, Black small business owners were particularly vulnerable. Foundations and large corporations took notice and began creating free grant resources for Black-owned organizations.

The George Floyd incident also impacted funding. Numerous foundations and corporations began pledging funds to help address racial inequalities in America, particularly in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Peavy states, "More grant opportunities are available for Black-owned organizations now than in the 15 years I have written grants. I want to help even the playing field by teaching Black-owned businesses and Black-led nonprofits to research, write, and win funding. I aim to provide free training to 23,000 black-owned organizations to educate them on funding availability and

See PEAVY, Page 5

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**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

**Sales Department:**marketing@northdallasgazette.com  
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**

www.NorthDallasGazette.com  
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**STAFF****Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum  
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1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Contributing Writers**

Jackie Hardy

Lori Lee

Marland Mosely, Jr.

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

**Special Projects to****the Publisher**

Mrs. Clinique Hill

**Production**

David Wilfong

**NDG Obituary Dept.**Vicky Richardson-Stewart  
VP of Operations

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# Recognizing the Taliban is a betrayal of women and democracy!

By Ozra Zafar

The Spontaneous Movement of Afghan Women strongly condemns the recent statements of the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammad, regarding the green light to recognize the Taliban regime. These statements are considered as a lobby to gain support for the Taliban and betrayal of humanity, democracy, and science.

The Taliban have a long history of misogyny and oppression of women, treating them as second-class citizens and imposing gender-based apartheid. They have banned girls from attending schools and universities. They have banned women from working in government and government sectors and with non-governmental organizations.

The Taliban does not fol-

low any humanitarian law or UN declaration. They systematically violate human rights, women's rights and civil liberties. Since August 2021, they have killed thousands of government officials, military personnel and former employees. The Taliban brutally suppressed women's protests, and arrested, tortured and imprisoned hundreds of women's rights defenders, civil society activists, journalists, teachers and professors. Arbitrarily arresting protesting women and girls, torturing and killing them, and then threatening the families of the victimized women so they won't disclose these crimes and share the news with the media has turned Afghanistan into a hell for women.

The international community and the United Nations should not recognize the theocratic regime of the Taliban. Instead, women's

rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists should be pressed for the release of imprisoned women.

We ask the United Nations and the international community to stop the weekly cash aid of \$40 million to the Taliban. The recognition of the Taliban will not lead to the acceptance of the demands of the international community by the Taliban. On the contrary, it will further encourage the Taliban to implement their anti-women, anti-science and anti-civil liberties policies in Afghanistan without any fear.

We call on all women's rights and human rights defenders, as well as democratic organizations, to stand by the women and people of Afghanistan, not the Taliban. We must together continue to support Afghan women's rights and their struggle for a secular

and democratic government in Afghanistan.

The possible recognition of the Taliban regime by the United Nations and the international community is a worrying development. Afghan women will not remain silent if they are recognized and if financial support for the Taliban continues without a real effort to help Afghan women and people free themselves from their oppressive regime. It doesn't matter whether the Taliban is recognized or not, as long as they are in power, the Spontaneous Movement of Afghan Women will never back down and will definitely speak out bravely for education, equal rights, and freedom against the misogynistic regime of the Taliban and the hypocritical policies of the United Nations and the international community.

## Russia's perpetual culture of death

By Dr. Paul Kengor

"I feel only sympathy for the Russians. No people have suffered as much death."

That was the response of a colleague of mine, Jan, a Polish professor and adviser to the Solidarity movement in the 1980s. Jan was a friend of Grove City College President John Moore. I had hosted Jan as a guest lecturer in one of my courses at Grove City College. He spoke about the Polish people's suffering under the jackboot of Soviet communism. The ongoing assault upon his people by the beast to the east had gone for a long time, well before the post-WWII Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe. In fact, Stalin's USSR in August 1939 had struck a deal with Hitler that saw both the Soviets and Nazis invad-

ing the country in September 1939. And two decades before that, Lenin and his thugs had invaded Poland in 1920, stopped by the Polish military in an extraordinary effort known as the Miracle on the Vistula.

So, I asked Jan: "Do you hate the Russians because of all this?" His response: "Oh, no. No, no, no. I feel only sympathy for the Russians. No people have suffered as much death."

Jan is right. The Russians lost more men in combat than any nation in World War I, and though they had allied with the winning side, the Bolsheviks pulled them out in 1917, meaning they tasted no fruits of victory. Instead, they got a Russian civil war from 1918-21 that, according to historian W. Bruce Lincoln, left over seven million Russian men, women, and children dead.

The Russian people's reward for that period of suffering? Seventy years of Bolshevism, which meant death, death, and more death. The Red Terror of Lenin, the Great Purge of Stalin, and more. The internal purges were interrupted only, and horrifically, by World War II, where the Russians/Soviets once again lost more men than any other country in the conflict—by far. Historians are still trying to figure out how many Russians/Soviets were killed in World War II, but the figure is likely 20-30 million. It might be as high as 40 times the combined wartime deaths of the United States and the United Kingdom.

And how many people perished under Marxism-Leninism in the USSR? Again, no one knows for sure. The Harvard Univer-

sity Press book, *The Black Book of Communism*, says only 20 million. Other authorities go higher. Alexander Yakovlev, in his 2002 Yale University Press work, *A Century of Violence in Soviet Russia*, claims that Joseph Stalin alone "annihilated 60 to 70 million people."

And none of these figures include the ghastly number of abortions in the country. Lenin and his minions immediately legalized abortion as soon as they seized control of the Kremlin. By the 1970s, according to official Soviet Health Ministry statistics, the USSR was averaging an unbelievable 7-8 million abortions per year. History has never seen anything like it. Do the math: That's potentially close to 80-100 million abortions in

See RUSSIA, Page 12

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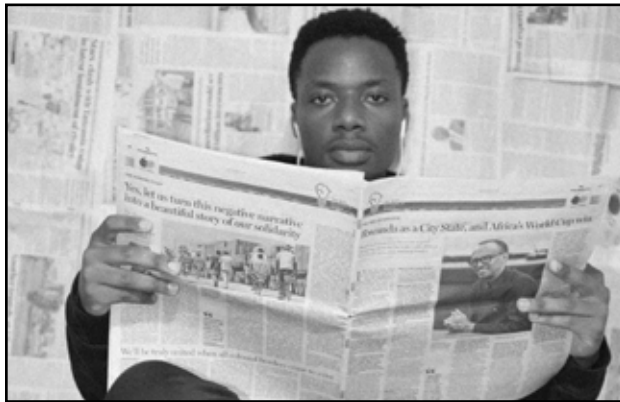
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# Good news, bad news -- a combination of the two can buffer effects of negative news stories

(Newswise) — People who saw news about human kindness after consuming news about a terrorist attack or other immoral acts felt fewer negative emotions and retained more belief in the goodness of humanity compared to people given just the bad news, according to a study published May 17, 2023 in the open access journal PLOS ONE by Kathryn Buchanan from the University of Essex, and colleague Gillian Sandstrom from the University of Sussex, UK.

The authors split 1,800 study participants into different groups. Across all the groups, participants



News stories featuring the best of humanity take the sting out of items exploring the worst of humanity. (Ian Maina / Unsplash)

were shown one- to three-minute-long video news clips or given brief news stories to read. In the “immorality” group, participants were given news on a recent terrorist attack or

similar stories. A “kindness” group were given reports of kind acts performed in response to the terrorist attack or unrelated kind acts. The “amusement” group, on the other hand, were given

lighthearted, unserious material, as well as content from the Immorality group, plus material from either the Kindness or the Amusement group.

The “Immorality” group participants reported substantial increases in negative emotion with simultaneous decreases in positive emotion, and more negative perceptions of humanity and society.

In comparison, the group that received a combination of materials covering immorality and kindness reported more positive emotion and perceptions of society. This group was more effective at mitigating the negative

effects of news covering immorality than both the immorality group and the group that received a combination of materials on immorality and amusement. This immorality and kindness combination resulted in lower increases in negative emotion and dramatic increases in positive emotion.

Stories about human kindness were most effective, but lighthearted news also showed an emotional buffering effect.

The results suggest that positive news can help provide an emotional buffer against negative news. Viewing kind acts, versus merely amusing acts, was

especially effective in helping participants retain beliefs about the goodness of others.

The authors hope their results will push the media to incorporate more positive coverage, as well as constructive or solution-oriented framing for complex, important issues.

The authors add: “News stories featuring the best of humanity take the sting out of items exploring the worst of humanity. This allows people to believe to maintain a core belief that is crucial for good mental health: that the world and the people in it are fundamentally good.”

## Study: Children can be effective life-savers with proper training

(AHA) — Building the skills for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can begin as early as age 4 and layer on as children get older, so that by age 10 they may be able to perform effective chest compressions on training manikins, according to a new scientific statement from ILCOR, the American Heart Association and the European Resuscitation Council published today in the American Heart Association’s flagship, peer-reviewed journal Circulation.

The writing group of resuscitation scientists from around the world reviewed more than 100 research articles about training students in CPR. The review found that school-aged children are highly motivated to learn life-saving skills and often “multiply” their training by passing on what they’ve learned to others.

“Training students has become a key element to increase the number of people ready to perform CPR



American Heart Association

when cardiac arrest occurs outside of a hospital, and potentially increase rates of CPR and cardiac arrest survival globally,” said Bernd W. Böttiger, M.D., M.L., FAHA, chair of the statement writing group and full professor and head of the Department of Anesthesi-

ology and Intensive Care Medicine at the University Hospital of Cologne in Cologne, Germany. “This research review aims to prompt clinicians, policy makers, local school officials and the general public to take action in a cardiac emergency whenever pos-

sible.”

“Given that most cardiac arrests outside of a hospital will happen at home, it’s important that all members of the family understand what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest,” said Comilla Sasson, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA, a member of the statement writing committee, practicing emergency medicine physician and vice president for science and innovation at the American Heart Association. “Building skills at a young age that are reinforced consistently throughout their years in school has the potential to educate generations of students and their parents on how to respond to cardiac arrest, perform chest compressions and rescue breaths, use an AED and ultimately increase survival.”

Cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting is a leading cause of death worldwide. Survival rates range between 2% and 20% globally and are particularly low without immediate rec-

ognition and action from a bystander.

According to the statement, even if children are too young or small to perform an effective chest compression, they may begin learning the steps and rhythm for proper CPR and begin to learn about AEDs. Research has shown impactful results in the amplification of community preparedness as school-aged children share what they are learning with their families, friends and neighbors.

In addition to what may be done in schools, families should have a cardiac emergency response plan in place. Make a plan within the household, and practice regularly by delegating the steps below:

- Who will call 911? Use a cell phone. Put the phone on speaker while talking with the emergency dispatcher and starting CPR.

- Who will start CPR? Double or triple the chance of survival by performing Hands-Only CPR immediately.

- Who will open the door? Make sure your entrance is unlocked, giving first responders easy access to your residence.

This scientific statement was prepared by the volunteer writing group on behalf of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. Member organizations of the committee include the American Heart Association and the European Resuscitation Council. Scientific statements promote greater awareness about cardiovascular diseases and stroke issues and help facilitate informed health care decisions. Scientific statements outline what is currently known about a topic and what areas need additional research. While scientific statements inform the development of guidelines, they do not make treatment recommendations. American Heart Association guidelines provide the Association’s official clinical practice recommendations.



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# Biden strikes optimistic tone on debt ceiling agreement

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Joe Biden hosted discussions on the debt limit with top leaders last week before heading off to Japan for the G7 Summit.

The tug-of-war between the parties over the debt ceiling has unraveled some of the President's efforts at diplomacy, forcing a shortened trip with cancelled stops in Papua New Guinea and Australia, hindering the President's ability to reinforce influence in the Pacific, reports CBS News.

Biden has reiterated that America's role in the world remains vital, primarily as the U.S. works with its allies to support Ukraine, tackle the climate crisis, and strengthen the global economy.

The President promises to be in close contact with his negotiating team, who will attempt to wage a deal



U.S. Treasury Dept.

with House Leader Kevin McCarthy on the debt ceiling. The team includes trusted advisor Steve Ricchetti, Legal Affairs Director Louisa Terrell, and OMB Director Shalanda Young, they report.

Biden is relying on the team to strike a deal with House Speaker McCarthy to raise the federal government's debt ceiling past the current \$31.4 trillion. A deal must be reached and ushered through both houses of Congress by June 1 to avoid default on its bills.

The president characterized the latest debt ceiling negotiations as "civil and respectful." "We had a productive meeting," Biden pronounced.

"I'm confident that we'll get an agreement on the budget, that America will not default."

America has never defaulted on its obligations, but a Republican-led and hostile Congress has threatened to make dubious history.

With the 2024 presidential election campaign al-

ready heated, some in the GOP are holding out for concessions most Democrats find distasteful.

With both sides aware that defaulting on our nation's debt would be catastrophic for the economy, it is unlikely that either side would wish to be responsible for that happening.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) also attended the Biden-McCarthy meeting.

"Every leader in the room understands the consequences if we fail to pay our bills," Biden asserted.

"And it would be catastrophic for the American economy and the American people if we didn't pay our bills."

He continued:

"And I'm confident everyone in the room agreed

that we're going to come together because there's no alternative to do the right thing for the country."

Meanwhile, McCarthy also sounded an optimistic tone. "It's doable," the Speaker stated when asked whether a deal was possible.

"We're on such a short timeline; it makes it almost harder," McCarthy continued.

"But there's one thing you know, for me, I never give up. I have the grit, the perseverance, and we're gonna get it done."

Jeffries said he hoped that a bipartisan agreement would materialize. Still, he also noted that Democrats in the House would file a discharge petition if they needed to bypass chamber procedures to avoid a default.

If a deal is reached and passed in the House, the Senate must vote on the measure.

While Democrats have a 51-49 majority, the deal still needs nine Republicans to pass.

As part of the stalemate, GOP members have demanded that any measure attach work requirements for anyone receiving government aid like food stamps.

Democrats want to raise taxes on the nation's most wealthy.

Republicans called that a non-starter and would rather lower-income residents and those receiving federal assistance pick up the costs by paying or working more.

"I'm not going to accept any work requirements that's going to impact on medical health needs of people," Biden asserted.

"I'm not going to accept any work requirements that go much beyond what already exists. But it's possible there could be a few others, but not anything of any consequence."

## Great gospel radio station KGGR to make mornings better

Nationally syndicated "Get Up! Mornings with Erica Campbell" features 4 hours of uplifting music, inspirational devotions, fascinating interviews and a fresh approach to news to jumpstart your day with popular host Erica Campbell, with millions of followers on social media.

The former reality TV star is also a national award-winning solo gospel

singer and was part of the famous duo Mary Mary.

The show began this month on radio station KGGR-AM 1040/106.9 FM.

Campbell promises a program filled with joy and faith walking. Motivational speaker Griff serves as co-host, bringing devotion, humor and enthusiastic energy to the morning experience.

This is the first of many

positive changes planned for KGGR, said Dave Cobb, executive vice president of MARC Radio Group, which assumed ownership of the urban gospel radio station known as Great Gospel Radio a year ago.

"We pledged to use our Christian broadcasting experience and resources to expand the listenership of KGGR."

visit <http://bit.ly/black-grants>. Additional grant resources can be found at <http://bit.ly/3GyFe5P>.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Linda is the owner of LiPav Consulting, LLC. The company has worked with clients providing marketing/communications from the Miss America Organization to the Biden for President Campaign. Grant writing dollars have been secured for diverse organizations specializing in topics from K-12 education to beauty academies to workforce development.

Scott Miller, market manager for the station added, this is a new beginning for the station and the community. "As a family-owned, faith-based company, we felt we could make a difference to the local faith

community."

For more information about the station, go to [www.KGGRam.com](http://www.KGGRam.com).

MARC Radio Group is a subsidiary of MARC Media Group LLC based in Orlando, Florida, with sta-

tions in Florida and Texas, along with a daily news organization and an outdoor advertising company. Its portfolio of radio stations features a variety of formats from Hip-Hop and R&B to Gospel.

## PEAVY, from Page 3

show them a pathway to greater financial stability using free grants."

Many small organizations rely upon grants to survive but cannot afford to hire a professional grant writer. Therefore, Linda created the LiPav Writing Academy in 2019 to teach grant writing skills to businesses needing them most. Peavy shares that "millions of dollars in free grant funds are available to organizations whether they are a start-up, scaling, or oper-

ating with an all-volunteer staff. In 2021, giving from foundations reached over 90 billion dollars. Showing vision, strategy, and impact is critical."

In addition to free training, Peavy offers products such as an in-depth grant writing course and the Million Dollar Grant Roadmap, her budget-friendly \$5 resource outlining the exact steps she took to secure millions in grants.

To register for Peavy's free grant writing webinars,

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## Nearly forgotten freedmen's community uncovered by Dallas College students and instructors receives historical marker

Little Egypt is getting long, overdue recognition. The historical Black community in North Dallas was built in 1883 by former slaves and thrived for nearly 80 years before it was demolished and cleared for businesses and a neighborhood in northeast Dallas now known as Lake Highlands.

The site has been designated by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) with a historical marker to commemorate the community's. A ceremony unveiling the marker took place

at noon Sat., May 20, 2023, at 8630 Thurgood Lane in Dallas. Speakers included Dallas City Councilmember Adam McGough, former Dallas College professors Dr. Clive Siegle and Dr. Tim Sullivan, as well as descendants of the original settlers of Little Egypt.

The genesis of Little Egypt's recognition and its rediscovery can be traced to 2015, when Dallas College Richland Campus students assisted history professor Dr. Clive Siegle and archeology professor Dr. Tim Sullivan in unearthing remnants of the settlement.

Dr. Siegle, who has since retired, helped uncover a tract of 20 modest homes on property at Northwest Highway and Ferndale Road not far from Northlake Shopping Center. He lived near the site and happened upon it by accident.

The students documented a history of the development of the community and the lives of the former residents and their descendants, Dr. Siegle said.

"Our initial problem was that we had no idea who lived there. The name 'Lit-

tle Egypt' did not appear as a formal location on any U.S. census records, so it wasn't possible to accurately place any of the individuals named in any census records as actually residing there, he said.

"What was vital to recreating a historical picture of life in Little Egypt was to locate any former residents of the community who were willing to tell the story of what it was like to live there, and that was problematic, at best, however,

See FREEDMEN, Page 8



## Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Class of 2023 earns record \$15 million in scholarships, pledges college attendance

The Dallas Independent School District's Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy students, families and staff and the Friends of BOMLA celebrated 100% college admittance for the Class of 2023 and a special Senior Signing Day and luncheon last week at the school at 3030 Stag Road in Dallas.

The event included a reading of the names of the 37 Class of 2023 graduates and the colleges they have committed to attending. Several students received offers from more than one top college. The Class of 2023 has so far also earned over \$14 million in scholarships and grants.

The class Valedictorian is originally from Guatemala and the first generation of his family to attend college. He was accepted into sev-



Dallas ISD

eral top 100 higher education institutions and will be attending the college of his choice with a full scholarship. The class Salutatorian is also a first-generation college student and first-generation of his family born in the United States. He has earned 11 full ride offers to colleges.

"This is exactly the outcome the Friends of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy was created to encourage," said Jus-

tin Parscale, partner and managing director of the Parscale Group as well as chair of the Friends of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy. "We are very proud of all the students and the work they have put into getting here throughout their education journey. We are grateful to have been able to be partners with their parents as cheerleaders for their success. And we are humbled that we have, in some way,

been able to support them along the way."

Founded in 2011, Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy is the first single-gender male magnet school in Dallas ISD and North Texas and 500 students in grades 6-12. It is one of the Top 5 Best Public Magnet Schools in Dallas/Ft Worth and has a 99% graduation rate. Since the first graduating class in 2015, BOMLA students have earned a combined \$46 million in scholarships.

"Our mission is to ensure that the young men who attend our schools have every opportunity to succeed not just academically, but also in their lives beyond high school," said Principal Rashad Jackson. "We are excited to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2023 and are grateful

for the support the Friends of BOMLA have offered throughout the years."

The Friends of BOMLA is a 501c3 organization with an independent board of directors established to help close the opportunity gap for our young men, the organization's mission is to invest in and empower young men in order to develop leaders and role models for the community.

"Access to a college education and the means to afford it are crucial to the path to success for many of these students," Parscale said. "This is why the Friends of BOMLA funds a college counselor whose sole purpose is to ensure that every single graduating student has information and access to college and scholarship applications."

The college bound adviser was established in 2019 to support college preparation experiences through the development of preparation classes and special events, such as college fairs, guest speakers, college visits, and SAT/ACT test preparation courses. Since inception, no class has earned less than \$8 million in scholarships. Each grade level attends a college trip every year funded by the organization.

The organization's other funding priorities include student enrichment, professional enrichment for staff to improve student outcomes, and program enrichment for all students.

More information is available at <https://bomlafriends.org/> or BOMLA <https://www.dallasisd.org/obama>.

## SCHLITZ, from Page 2

Studios. BeinBian Studios is a boutique animation studio that specializes in the creation of custom block animation productions that capture the creative needs of its clients. The studio has a growing list of clients and continues to receive posi-

tive reviews for their work.

"I am thankful for the opportunities that the Tarleton State University MBA program has provided me. He says the program and faculty have given him a great foundation of business fundamentals and

helped him develop his critical thinking, leadership and communications skills. "I appreciate that they embraced me holistically and did not let my young age be a deterrent from continuing my education," said Taylor Schlitz.

Ian has been accepted into the prestigious Learn-

ing Technologies Ph.D. program at the University of North Texas and will begin his studies there in the Fall of 2023. Ian plans to explore how gamification can be utilized to engage students in learning different subjects. Ian also wants to ensure that the use of technology in education is

deliberately designed to ensure that the diverse communities across Texas and our nation are engaged and embraced.

"I am excited to be returning to the Mean Green and being able to pursue my passions in the areas of technology. One thing the global pandemic has taught

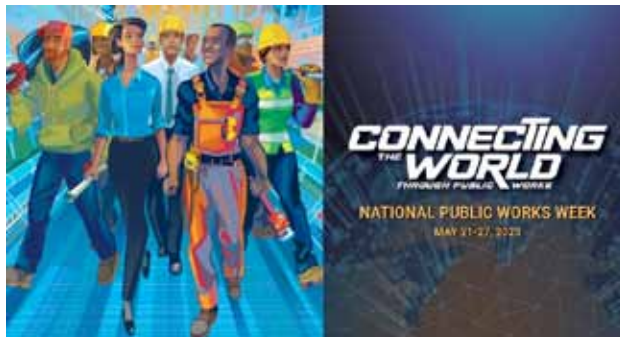
us is that we must continue to explore how technology can be further utilized to help all students and individuals learn. The PhD in Learning Technologies at UNT is a world-renowned program with amazing faculty and I am grateful to have this opportunity," said Taylor Schlitz.



# Carrollton to celebrate Public Works Week with Open House & Rodeo

The City of Carrollton joins the American Public Works Association (APWA) and communities from across the nation to honor those who work in professions that provide and maintain public facilities and services during National Public Works Week, May 21-27. Public Works plays a vital role in the well-being of the Carrollton community by maintaining and improving the systems and services crucial to the residents' health, safety, and comfort.

"Carrollton Public Works crews play a key role in keeping the community safe and functioning



smoothly especially during times of crisis," Public Works Director Jody Byerly said. "The Department's goals during this celebratory week are to increase public awareness of the crews' contributions as first responders as well as to enlighten residents about the duties, practices, and goals

of these public works professionals."

This year's theme "Connecting the World Through Public Works" highlights the way public works professionals carry out their duties with pride connecting us physically, through infrastructure, and inspirationally, through service to

their communities, whether as first responders, or daily workers.

Byerly said he is especially proud of all the Public Works crews who work round-the-clock during extreme weather events to ensure highways are passable, downed trees and limbs are cleared, and public water systems are functioning optimally across the City.

As part of National Public Works Week, Carrollton will be holding the annual Public Works Open House & Equipment Rodeo on Wednesday, May 24 at the Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs

Road) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event will feature equipment demonstrations and displays, as well as informational booths highlighting water conservation, stormwater protection, and other programs that show how Carrollton Public Works contributes to the City's safety and quality of life. Families are encouraged to attend, and children with appropriate adult supervision will be allowed to examine the various pieces of equipment. For more information, call 972-466-4291 or visit [cityofcarrollton.com/publicworks](http://cityofcarrollton.com/publicworks).

Public works' professionals keep the community in operation by providing infrastructure services including managing water, sewer, public transportation, and waste removal as well as maintaining public buildings and grounds. Streets, bridges, and public transportation keep residents linked together from driveway to highway, and clean water and sanitation services keep the City healthy. Public works provides the groundwork needed for collaboration with all the stakeholders in

See PUBLIC, Page 11

## IRS, from Page 1

"The IRS is making strides, but extra audits of Black Americans are disgraceful and must end."

Werfel promised that the IRS would accelerate an existing research effort to detect and ensure compli-

ance among "ghost preparers," individuals who are paid to prepare returns for others but do not identify themselves to the IRS. He went on to say that initial evidence confirms unscrupulous and ghost preparers

prepare returns disproportionately in minority communities.

"We are making broad efforts to advance our commitment to fair and equitable tax administration and evaluating the best ways to address bias within our audit program."

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## New STEM Camp program at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

FORT WORTH – Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is excited to announce the launch of its NEW Bilingual STEM Camps for children aged 6 to 14.

Summer is a good time for children to get together with other children and engage in the stimulating and exciting subjects surrounding science.

STEM lessons integrate science, technology, engineering, and math into activities that educate. STEM encourages teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, and creativity, while allowing students to make



FW Museum of Science and History

connections with others.

Summer camps will run at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History from Tuesday to Friday and offer a different STEM-focused theme for each camp.

The Bilingual STEM

Camps aim to provide students with age-appropriate project-based learning using science and history, hands-on experiences, problem-solving opportunities, and creative scientific thinking. In addition,

the classes will utilize the Museum's exhibits and programs to support class themes and offer a Spanish immersion experience.

The Bilingual STEM Camps are designed to empower children to explore their interests in science and history and engage them in interactive learning experiences. With a maximum capacity of 15 students per class, the camps offer an intimate and personalized learning environment. Enrollments are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to register as soon as possible to secure your child's spot in the

camp.

Parents can choose from three different age-appropriate camps: Primary Camp for 6 to 8-year-olds, Upper Elementary Camp for 9 to 11-year-olds, and Middle School Camp for 12 to 14-year-olds.

Each camp will provide a unique opportunity for children to learn about various STEM fields, from robotics to environmental science, while also having fun and making new friends.

"We are thrilled to launch our Bilingual STEM Camps this summer," said Amber Shive, Vice President of Education. "Our goal is to

provide a fun and engaging learning experience for children while also supporting their bilingual skills. We hope that our camps will inspire children to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering and math and provide them with the foundation they need for future success."

To register your child for one of our Bilingual STEM Camps, please visit our website. Don't miss this opportunity to provide your child with a unique and exciting summer camp experience at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

## FREEDMEN, from Page 6

when you can't verify who those people actually are."

As luck would have it, they found the McCoy family – whose descendants are among the original settlers on the 30 acres that made up Little Egypt. The McCoy family owned a corner lot and were the only family whose home was equipped with a telephone, said Gloria McCoy, 72.

"There were dirt roads and no running water, but there was electricity. We had a church and families who looked out for one another," she said. "We lived at 8604 Thurgood, and I

have lots of fond memories," said McCoy, a retired business owner. "We were a community. We were not poor. My dad had a dump truck, a pickup truck and a '57 Chevrolet. We went to the movies and to picnics. It was an ideal upbringing. The church was in the community – Egypt Chapel Baptist Church. To us, the church was a large part of everything. If the city had granted us running water, we probably wouldn't have moved."

But Little Egypt was landlocked with unpaved roads, no sewer system or

trash pickup, although the community was surrounded by houses and structures that had these services, Dr. Siegle said. This made Little Egypt vulnerable to developers who could buy the land and secure city services.

By 1962, fate had dealt the community a final hand. Little Egypt residents decided collectively to sell – a move that allowed them to chart their own course and they were paid for their property, Siegle said.

In one day, the fleet of 37 moving vans that descended on the rutted roads and aging homesteads of Little Egypt had loaded up

the furnishings of its residents, and by the end of the day, the community stood deserted. Bulldozers followed shortly. Within a day, newspapers as far away as New Mexico and New York carried the story of Little Egypt's unique saga, according to documents filed with the Texas Historical Commission, which approved the marker.

Little Egypt took its place in history.

"This is a historical site,"

Dr. Siegle said. "It is one of many small rural communities that once dotted Texas and have eventually been swallowed up. But it also provides an excellent example of how these communities developed over time. It's a case study in post-Civil War Black rural community evolution. History has always talked about great events and great men, but today's historical focus is rich with studies that illuminate what life

was like for regular folk as well. Our focus was to uncover and illuminate a little-known community of just such people."

McCoy said she is proud to tell her family's story. "This honor is for Little Egypt, and it is well deserved," McCoy said. "We are pleased that they (Dr. Siegle, Dr. Sullivan and Richland College students) took an interest in the community we were raised in. This was our home."



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## Dallas Film & Creative Industries Office (DFCIO) to host two-time Oscar Winner Sir Roger A. Deakins in Dallas this June

The Dallas Film & Creative Industries Office (DFCIO) is proud to present a series of events featuring two-time Oscar-winning cinematographer Sir Roger A. Deakins. Deakins, along with his longtime collaborator James Deakins, will be in Dallas June 8 – 11, 2023, and will participate in public events including a book signing, film screenings and Q&A, supported and hosted by the Texas Theatre, as well as private workshops with the Dallas chapter of Women in Film and Southern Methodist University's film program.

Deakins is an English cinematographer best known for his work on the films of the Coen brothers, Sam Mendes, and Denis Villeneuve. In 2018, he won an Oscar for best cinematographer for his work in *Blade Runner 2049*.

"We're thrilled to bring Roger and James Deak-



*Dallas film buffs will have the opportunity to rub elbows with the renowned cinematographer June 8 – 11 (Kal Visuals / Unsplash)*

ins to Dallas and have the opportunity to showcase the destination to one of the best cinematographers in the world," said Tony Armer, commissioner of the DFCIO. "Their work has inspired countless filmmakers and film enthusiasts, and we're excited to provide an opportunity for our community to learn from and engage with these two legends."

Roger Deakins is widely regarded as one of the most

talented and influential cinematographers of all time. Over the course of his incredible career, he has received numerous awards and nominations, including 16 Academy Award nominations and two wins. Deakins won the Academy Award for Best Achievement in Cinematography for *Blade Runner 2049* in 2017 and followed that up with another win for 1917

**See DEAKINS, Page 12**

## Legendary NFL, Movie Star and Activist Jim Brown Dies at 87

Jim Brown, the superstar Cleveland Browns running back who quit football at the very height of his hall-of-fame career, has died at 87.

Perhaps the greatest running back ever, Brown quit football to pursue an acting career at 30.

From 1957 to 1965, the perennial all-pro helped lead a Cleveland Browns ground game that won an NFL championship in 1964.

Voted pro football's greatest player of the 20th century, Brown earned induction into the Hall of Fame in 1971. But football wasn't the only sport in which he excelled.

He played basketball, track, and lacrosse at high levels.

He was inducted into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1984.

But football is where he chiefly left his mark.

Notably, in 1965, Cleveland Brown's owner, Art Modell, issued an ultimatum to the superstar, telling him that if he continued filming the hit movie, "The Dirty Dozen," which was delayed because of technical problems, Brown would face fines for reporting late to training camp.

Ever independent, Brown defied Modell and called a press conference to announce his retirement from football.

Brown also didn't hesitate to speak out on issues affecting African Americans and openly supported the civil rights movement.

He started and helmed the Negro Industrial and Economic Union to create jobs for Black people in Ohio.

The organization also

helped secure loans for Black businesses.

Brown also formed a coalition to denounce the federal government's role in stripping boxing legend Muhammad Ali of his title because Ali refused to fight in the Vietnam War.

Brown's popularity grew, and he cemented himself into film lore, becoming the first Black man to have on-screen sexual relations with a white woman, Raquel Welch, in the film "100 Rifles."

Brown was born on St. Simons Island, off the southern coast of Georgia, where he had a difficult childhood, according to biography.com.

Brown was only two weeks old when his father abandoned the family; Brown's mother left him alone after she took a job in New York as a maid.

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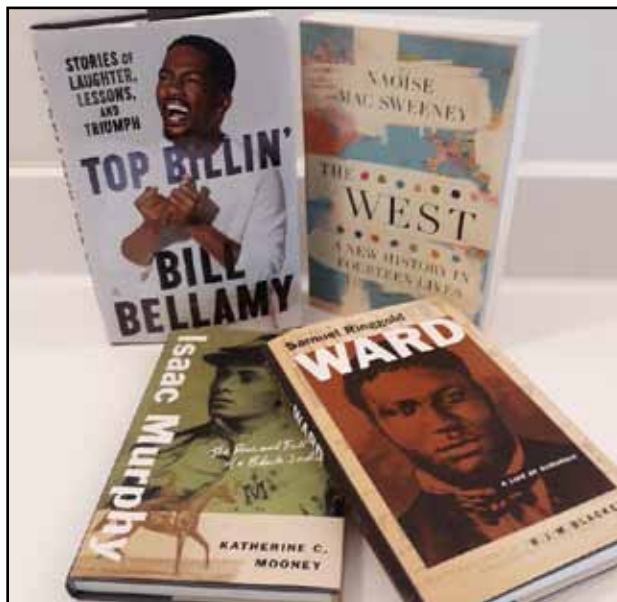
## NDG Book Review: African American biographies by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You are never alone in this world.

Reach out, and you can always get help. Look around, and you'll find company. Pick up one of these great books, and you'll read about someone whose life was fascinating, and who you can admire and aspire to be like...

For anyone who likes to watch the ponies, or who thrills to the Triple Crown each year, "Isaac Murphy: The Rise and Fall of a Black Jockey" by Katherine C. Mooney (Yale University Press, \$25) is a book filled with action and history. Isaac Murphy was born a slave in 1861 and became a horse jockey, as many Black men did then. Horse racing was one of America's most popular sports in the mid-nine-



Terri Schlichenmeyer

teenth-century and Murphy was one of America's most well-known athletes, Black and white – but while his work, the races he won, and the prizes he captured made him famous then, Murphy is often forgotten today. This is an excellent look

at a quietly hidden part of Black history, and it can't be missed.

In "Samuel Ringgold Ward: A Life of Struggle" by R.J.M. Blackett (Yale University Press, \$25),

See BOOKS, Page 16

## Stunning Southern African contemporary masterworks on view at African American Museum, Dallas through Aug. 13

A one-of-a-kind exhibition, "If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future," made its North American debut April 24 and currently is on display at the African American Museum, Dallas in the city's historic Fair Park. Made possible by the beloved restaurant group Nando's, one of the largest collectors of contemporary Southern African art in the world, the exhibition features more than 60 pieces from 55 emerging, mid-career and established artists.

Open to the public at no cost, the exhibition runs through Sunday, Aug. 13.

Some of the most notable Southern African-based artists with work on display include Zanele Muholi, Claudette Schreuders, Kagiso Patrick Mautloa, Igshaan Adams, Stephen Hobbs, Vivien Kohler, Anastasia Pather, Penny Siopis, William Kentridge, Portia Zvavahera and Samson Mnisi.



The African American Museum's exhibit curated from the Nando's Collection of more than 25,000 pieces features the North American premiere of more than 60 pieces of exemplary contemporary art. (Wikimedia)

The selection of work is drawn from the collection's strengths in portraiture, landscape, cityscapes and abstraction.

"The response to this exhibition has been overwhelmingly positive. Our supporters and visitors have never experienced an exhibition about the unity of contemporary Southern African artwork like this before," said Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., president and CEO of the African American Museum, Dallas. "We are honored for Nando's to debut an exhibition that

embodies shared community, and culture at our institution."

Curating an exhibition from a collection built over two decades and assembling pieces never seen together was an idea that came to life from the late philanthropist and businessman, Dick Enthoven, who tapped Laurie Ann Farrell to be the curator. One of the most important curators working to expose artists from Africa and the African Diaspora

See MUSEUM, Page 11

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Calderon and Scott A. - Midway Motel ("Tootsie") and Jacqueline Williams ("Calypso") (Photo by Jeffery Gershenov)



# Unlocking Dallas' housing potential: Existing vacant land could hold 100,000 new apartments

(RentCafe) -- Dallas is facing a serious housing crisis. The city has the largest homeless population in Texas and severe housing shortages. Roughly 19,000 apartments should be built annually to fill the gap, particularly for low-income families. The pandemic, the winter storm and the rising cost of living have exacerbated the problem, leaving thousands of people without a safe and stable place to call home.

Yet Dallas has a hidden treasure that could solve its housing shortage -- untapped land, with 475 unused plots already zoned for multifamily, covering around 76 million square feet. In just 20 Dallas zip codes -- those with the greatest housing potential, lie enough vacant land to support up to 100,000 new apartments. That's more than the total number of apartments built in Dallas since 2000. Half of these would be located in the heart of the city, making these communities more vibrant and giving renters more choices.

By using those 76 million square feet (almost 6% of the city's existing building space) to create homes, Dallas could make life better for everyone who rents, especially low-income families. And that's just the tip of the iceberg: Through strategic rezoning, the city could unlock even more potential for affordable and diverse housing options, which would alleviate the housing shortage, temper rent increases and drive Dallas toward a more equitable future. Although some of the vacant land is owned by the local government, it could be leveraged through public-private partnerships.

Building 10,000 apartments annually over ten years would slow down rents from an estimated 123% increase with the current pace of construction and migration to between 47% and 85% in the ideal scenario.

Our analysis shows the most promising areas are downtown and the neighborhoods to the south and west of the city core. Zip codes 75201 and 75202

(making up the city's downtown) have a total of 50 vacant lots covering more than 2.7 million square feet. Overlapping the western side of Dallas' central area, zip code 75202 allows for the highest number of new apartments to be built on its 34 empty parcels -- nearly 34,500. This is more than double the building potential in zip code 75201 (16,400 apartments for rent), which covers the western side of downtown Dallas and includes 16 vacant plots. Here, roughly 6,600 apartments were built in the last 10 years, nearly six times more than the 1,140 units that opened their doors in zip code 75202 in the same timeframe.

Maximizing downtown Dallas' great housing potential comes with valuable benefits. Here, renters have easy access to transportation, shopping and entertainment options. Plus, the area's high walkability would contribute to a greener city.

The third-most promising area is zip code 75241,

southeast of downtown. More than 10,800 apartments could be built on the 23 parcels south of Cedar Crest and overlapping parts of the Lancaster and Hutchins suburbs. The vacant land in this zip code covers a sprawling 13.3 million square feet, the most out of all the zip codes considered. This is a growing area, with nearly 14% of the population having moved here in the past year, according to Census Reporter data. In this case, the more affordable cost of living draws in renters to this suburban neighborhood, which could benefit from more apartment rentals.

Next, zip code 75207, just west of downtown and overlapping the Design District, also holds potential. Here, more than 5,000 apartments could be built on 16 vacant lots, which is double the current number of apartments for rent.

This zip code is already an established renting district known for fine arts and shopping. A larger supply of rentals would only bring more foot traffic to benefit businesses, especially because it constantly draws in new residents from other areas in the metro and out of state.

Similarly, zip code 75216 is also promising, coming in fifth in terms of housing potential in this analysis.

We identified 39 vacant lots that allow multifamily construction in this zip code, which overlaps Cedar Crest almost entirely and offers the potential for just under 4,000 apartments.

In the next decade, rents in Dallas are expected to rise along with incomes as part of the city's anticipated economic growth. Researchers looked at two

See RENT, Page 12

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## PUBLIC, from Page 7

capital projects, infrastructure solutions, and services to assure a higher quality of life for the community.

Let Public Works friends, neighbors, and service providers know their efforts to the City of Carrollton are appreciated.

Interested in a public works job? The mission of the Carrollton Public Works Department is to maintain and operate public infrastructure in a manner that respects the environment and provides sustainability to the community includ-

ing street maintenance and repair, drainage, water quality and production, water distribution, asphalt and utility cuts, meter services, wastewater, and traffic operation.

For more information, call 972-466-4291 or visit [cityofcarrollton.com/publicworks](http://cityofcarrollton.com/publicworks).

## MUSEUM, from Page 10

to the United States; Farrell served as a curator at The Africa Center (formerly known as The Museum of African Art) in New York City, an executive director at Savannah College of Art & Design, curator and head of modern and contemporary art at the Detroit Institute of Art, and briefly as senior curator at the Dallas Contemporary.

"Exhibiting exemplary pieces from the Nando's

art collection that have never been seen together before brings a broad range of South African talent to the United States," said Farrell. "Attendees are immersed in the collections' distinct aesthetics, while also engaging with universal themes of humanity, love, loss and hope for a better future."

"As a proudly African brand coming to Dallas, we consider the African Amer-

ican Museum to be the perfect canvas for world-class expressions of the modern Southern African lived experience," said Sepanta Bagherpour, Chief Brand Officer of Nando's North America.

Home to the legendary South-African flamed-grilled PERi-PERi chicken and PERi-PERi sauces, the first Nando's locations arrive in Texas this summer, with two locations opening in Houston and one in Dallas.



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## RENT, from Page 11

growth scenarios, considering population growth and migration trends, as well as the pace of apartment construction. The first scenario looked at rent evolution assuming the rate of multifamily development stayed the same at 4,000 rental apartments per year. In this case, we would expect rents in Dallas to increase by 85% to 123% in the next 10 years.

Second, they looked at the effect of incentivizing apartment build-out on vacant land through rezoning and increased housing density on rent growth. At this faster pace, with around 10,000 new apartments per year, rents in Dallas would rise by only 47% to 85% in the next decade.

Construction work on 100,000 apartments could begin immediately on the 475 vacant lots that already allow multifamily. However, the potential would be 6.5 times greater including other zonings. That's because Dallas has more than

494 million square feet of vacant land scattered around 3,152 parcels that could be used to build more housing.

So, why is one of the country's largest job hubs not building more? Bureaucratic hurdles are a big part of the problem.

One major contributing hurdle is slow permitting. According to Phil Crone, executive director of the Dallas Builders Association, "Process uncertainty is the largest Dallas-centric inhibitor here." Developers often face monthslong delays in getting their projects approved by the city.

Municipalities could also encourage construction by showing more flexibility in rezoning. Doug Ressler, manager of business intelligence at Yardi Matrix, explained that only in the U.S. is the detached single-family house "considered to be so incompatible with all other types of urbanization as to warrant a legally defined district all its own

where all other major land uses and building types are outlawed."

Urban planning experts now see that this country's historical preference for single-family detached homes has led to poor walkability and a disconnection between the people who live in these communities.

Referring to University of Georgia Professor Sonia Hirt's book "Zoned in the U.S.A.," Ressler continued: "It's clear from Europe and some older U.S. cities that these single-family home districts can be perfectly compatible with and even enhanced by well-designed multifamily buildings." The increased number of residents that multifamily construction would bring can also better support demand for community businesses.

As builders call for more flexible and streamlined permitting, the City has been working to improve the process. It's been simplifying and updating its development code, last overhauled nearly four de-

acades ago. It is creating a new future land use map to replace the one adopted in 2006. And Dallas City Council recently approved a new affordable housing plan to make housing accessible to low- and middle-income residents, though the document appears quite vague, with no budget or goals yet in place. The new policy aims for a collaboration with communities throughout the city to identify areas where affordable housing is needed and then invest there "in a comprehensive manner."

These are works in progress. A more immediate solution seemingly might be to file for a zoning change. Yet, estimated at about three months, this process is reported by some developers to double that figure.

Crone recently met with several affordable housing developers who recalled a number of such burdens as they tried to start construction. The City currently has a backlog of about 1,000 Planned Development requests -- a rezoning that al-

lows a combination of land uses under a uniform plan.

In short, the current permitting process is in crisis. The predicament began with the pandemic, after the more expeditious in-person approval process was replaced with the current online system. So far, it has been met with poor results, Ressler said.

"As the city looks to address this issue (permitting crisis), they need to increase the number of projects that can be done by right," Crone suggested. "I'd like to challenge each councilperson to find as many areas in their district as possible where you could build a three or fourplex instead of a single-family home. This is how you get density and development without displacement in neighborhoods."

Help is on the way, however. Under House Bill 14, filed in March, applicants could hire a third party to review and sign off on permits if cities don't act on applications or conduct an inspection within 15 days

of state-set deadlines. "The bill is part of a package of zoning reforms that would make already-affordable, development-friendly Texas an easier and cheaper place to build," Ressler added.

Building more affordable housing would benefit a city that's experiencing tremendous growth, including in its homeless population, which has recently grown by 90%. Doing so would reduce the need for emergency shelters and services, improve public health and safety and promote social and economic inclusion, all the while saving taxpayers money. It would also make Dallas a more attractive and livable place for everyone, regardless of income or background.

For details on the team's methodology, please see the complete story at RentCafe.com. RentCafe is a nationwide apartment search website that enables renters to easily find apartments and houses for rent throughout the U.S.

## RUSSIA, from Page 3

one decade.

Death, death, death.

I mention this now—and I've written about it before—because of two new sets of figures regarding Russia's perpetual culture of death.

First, there are the staggering losses by Russia in Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine—devastating losses that I've repeatedly warned would happen, given that Russia always gets wiped out on the battlefield. Some current estimates are that Putin's Russia may have experienced 250,000 casualties in Ukraine. That is devastating. For a sense of comparison, America lost about 58,000 men in Vietnam over a decade-plus of combat. The Russians have lost multiple times that number in a year in Ukraine.

For the American Putinists who oddly want to defend the Kremlin madman, blaming his invasion on Russia not being let into NATO or bizarrely buying

his disinformation campaign about sparing Ukraine from a process of "Nazification" under Zelensky, those fatalities should be quite a wakeup call. The man they're excusing has mercilessly fed hundreds of thousands of Russian boys into a meat grinder, in a war those boys don't want.

Well, now there are added new reports on Russian death. They focus on something we Russia-watchers have known about for some time, namely: It's population implosion. Russian sources are estimating that the country will need 1.1 million immigrants a year for the next 80 years simply to maintain its current population level, which is unlikely to happen, given that few foreigners are dashing to Moscow nowadays to take up residence in Putin-land, including the American Putinists prattling on about their courageous leader in the Kremlin.

This demographic crisis is no surprise. I could share

with you figures from the World Health Organization and other organizations and media sources circa 2000 forecasting a Russian demographic implosion from about 140 or 150 million people in the year 2000 plummeting to under 110 million by 2050. The reasons for that were many, from a society of men drinking themselves to death to a vast demographic plague of abortion-induced infertility among Russian women butchered by repeated abortions.

The birth dearth is one of the reasons why Vladimir Putin in the year 2000 put the first major restrictions on abortion in the country in nearly 50 years, and why he has also restricted foreign adoptions of Russian children. He wants to keep kids in the country. He's facing a population crash, which does not help his ambitions to expand the borders of his glorious Mother Russia.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has worsened his nation's long demograph-

ic winter. Not only have 250,000 healthy young Russian men died, been wounded, or gone missing in sacrifice to Putin's bloodlust for Ukraine, but many more are bolting the country to avoid his forced conscription. Apparently, unlike Putin's defenders in America, these young Russians see

no good reason for invading their democratic neighbor. They're getting out of Dodge.

Tragically, the Russian people remain mired in a perpetual culture of death. Mad Dog Putin is merely making things worse. Few people have suffered so much.

*Dr. Paul Kengor is professor of political science and chief academic fellow of the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College. One of his latest books (August 2020) is "The Devil & Karl Marx: Communism's Long March of Death, Deception, and Infiltration."*

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# Seniors still wary after pandemic scare

Walgreens recently unveiled The Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check, a quantitative study commissioned by the healthcare retailer, which surveyed over 1,000 senior adults 55 and older in the U.S. about their feelings on socializing after the pandemic.

The survey reveals that an estimated 17 million (42%) of seniors agreed they are less socially active now than they were before the pandemic. Additionally, an estimated 8.2 million (20%) of seniors feel lonelier now than before the pandemic.

The research also reveals that seniors are missing activities they enjoyed pre-pandemic due to COVID-19 exposure anxiety, which is still prevalent in the senior community:

- 60% are worried about seeing friends regularly and attending family gatherings

- 36% miss going on va-

cation

- 28% miss going shopping or running errands

- 19% miss being connected to their local community

- 15% miss the independence of doing things for themselves, like shopping

This feeling of concern around socialization increases for the Black senior community 55 and older with nearly 4 in 10 (39%) of these seniors reporting feeling socially isolated, 13 percentage points higher than the total population of 55 and older. In addition, over 4 in 10 (43%) seniors in the Black community reported they are limiting what they do and where they go in fear of catching COVID-19 – 16 percentage points higher than the total population of 55 and older.

When seniors think about their confidence in socializing, The Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check found 70% of seniors are

more confident socializing when the people they are around are vaccinated

against COVID-19 and other viruses like flu, shingles and pneumonia.



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## DEAKINS, from Page 9

in 2019. A few of his other nominations include Sicario, Skyfall, No Country for Old Men, Fargo and The Shawshank Redemption.

"The Texas Theatre is thrilled to support the DF-CIO and be one of the host venues for this event. It will be an honor to have Roger and James as guests at our theater," said Texas Theatre partner Ashton Campbell. "We love bringing in filmmakers to support their work, but this one is on another level. Roger is the gold standard for cinematography, so this is still a bit surreal!"

Deakins' book, Byways includes previously unpublished black-and-white stills from his personal collection that reflect a life spent telling stories through images, from 1971 to the present. He captured some of these images while traveling with his wife James, while others are things that caught his eye on a walk or catching the last of the light

at the end of a day's filming on projects like Sicario, Skyfall, and 1917.

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## These Old Bones of Mine

By James L. Snyder

I had a frightening experience the other day. I know I must be getting old because things that never frightened me before frighten me. I also see things I never saw before.

Going into the bathroom one morning, I looked in the mirror, and my grandfather looked back at me. I almost passed out. With great haste, I left the bathroom, rushed to the living room, and sat down to think a little bit. What just happened?

I hadn't thought of my grandfather for a long time, and now here I am, looking at myself in the mirror and seeing my grandfather. Oh boy. How did he get in my mirror?

I knew my grandfather was old, at least from my perspective when I knew him. One thing I remember about him was how much he complained about his bones. You could hear his knees crack whenever he would get up from a chair. I never could understand that.

At the time, I thought he was putting on a show. I never had my bones crack, nor did they ever hurt. So, I thought my dear old grandfather was trying to get pity from us, so I lavished it on as much as possible. I tried to come to the end of his joke, but he died before it ended.

The last two years that I knew him, he walked around with a cane. I thought he was just doing that for dressing. I

thought he was acting like Bat Masterson; "He wore a cane and derby hat."

Several times, I asked him where his "derby hat" was. He just looked at me as though he had no idea what I was saying. So, being the grandson that I was, I went on with his ploy.

Not until recently did I discover that this was not a ploy; rather, he had aching and creaking bones.

It seems that I have inherited his creaking bones. Now I know what he was going through back then, and it wasn't a ploy.

It seems every day, I find a new bone to creak. I will never know how my grandfather handled those creaking bones at his age, but I'm starting to find out. I guess I

should've taken him more seriously back then.

I have no idea how many bones I have in my body, but I am discovering new bones that are starting to creak daily. I didn't know I had so many bones.

After thinking about my grandfather and his creaking bones, I went back into the bathroom to chat with him, but instead of him being in the mirror, there I was. I am my grandfather!

My grandfather was 69 years old when he passed, and I am, let's say, a little past that age.

Instead of inheriting creaking bones from my grandfather, I would rather have inherited \$1 million. But life is as it is. I don't know how long I have yet

before my old bag of bones exhausts itself. Till then, I will creak and crack my bones every day, just like my grandfather.

That may be why people have rather short memories when they get older. Boy, would I like to forget these creaking bones of mine. When I think I have it all worked out, another bone pops and then starts creaking.

I don't know how close I am to getting a cane, but it just might be in the near future.

Of course, having a cane would be more helpful when walking down the street to protect me from some idiot who wants to rob me. So I've been thinking about that.

If it were just creaking bones, I wouldn't be too concerned. But looking in the mirror this morning caused me to see that old age is really ugly. I have more wrinkles than I can count on my face. Where do those wrinkles come from? What are they there, and how do I get rid of them?

I should start counting my wrinkles every morning to ensure I have the same amount from the day before. Of course, there must be some good to these wrinkles, or I wouldn't have so many.

I think I have become the standard for old age with my musical bones and flourishing wrinkles. I sure could

**See BONES, Page 16**

## Fire Alarms

By Daris Howard

I had been running lights for some of the theatre productions in the community. It all started when a group was going to do a show at a city-owned facility, and they didn't have staff to run the lights on the nights of the performances. The city usually insisted their own people do it, but this time they were desperate.

"If you have someone who can run the lights with very little training, we will let them," the city arts director said.

That was when the theatre director called me. "Daris," she said, "you are very tech-savvy. Would you be willing to run the lights for the show?"

My family had run a community theater for about six years, and I had trained my children on the lights and sound, but I knew these new ones were quite different. However, I told her I felt I could do it and went for the training the city set up.

The lights were indeed far more advanced than any I had used. These lights had almost infinite capabilities. I got an hour of training, a digital manual I could reference, and the chance to come back and practice in an empty theater. I made good use of that opportu-

nity.

I had a few muff-ups and got yelled at quite a bit, but by the time the production was ready, I was quite efficient. I won't say I was perfect at it, but the show went well.

That is how I got to run lights for quite a few community events. The city would allow, and even request, for me to fill in when their staff was busy. I didn't get paid like their staff did, even though I think they still charged the theatre groups a light manager fee, but I enjoyed it.

One summer, I received a request to run the lights for a community theatre group's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. The director wanted lots of color changes through the dances and especially when the beast changed to the prince. I felt confident I could do the job.

The group had been practicing for a couple of months when I was asked to come for my first evening with them. When I arrived, the fire alarm was blaring. I went to the light booth and brought up the stage lights. A few minutes later, a friend, Vance, joined me there.

"Would you mind if I helped with the lights?" he asked.

I smiled. "Not at all. It would be fun to have you work with me, and I could use some help on some spotlights. But aren't you going to be doing the fog machine?"

A few years earlier, in a production of *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*, we had run a fog machine together. It was a big barrel that we loaded with lots of dry ice. He had taken that assignment alone in the following years.

At my question, he shook his head. "The director plans to use a commercial smoke machine for the beast-change scene. She doesn't feel the dry-ice fog will be sufficient. That machine is what kicked on the fire alarm."

The firefighters got the alarm off, and we quickly realized that the big smoke machine put out so much that we had to have something to draw the smoke quickly from the stage to the outside. Big fans were rigged for that purpose.

Everything went well through the practices and the first couple of performances. Then, with only three performances left, a wind came up, and when the fans were turned on, the wind fought against them and pushed the smoke back inside. With only about ten

minutes left of the show, the fire alarm kicked on.

The firefighters came and would not allow the show to continue. They said they would cancel the rest of the performances if the alarms kicked on again. There was a lot of commotion, upset guests, a mad director, and all that goes along with an unfinished show.

We did do the last two

performances by using the lights to create a surreal effect for that scene instead of smoke. And as we finished the last performance, Vance's wife thanked me. When I asked her what she was thanking me for, she said, "For allowing my husband to help you with the lights. If you hadn't, he would have been the one everyone was yelling at for

the fog machine.

As the saying goes (kind of), it is good to be in the right place when the smoke hits the fan.

*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>, to buy his books.*

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## Where is Your Dwelling Place?



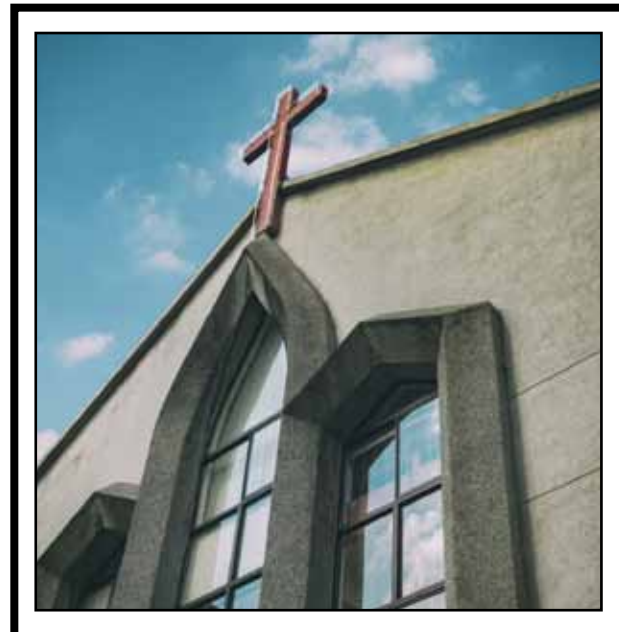
**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

The late Elder Philip White of Love Chapel COGIC and my former pastor brought a powerful and thought provoking message one Sunday that ignited the entire congregation with praises and worshipping for God.

This was not an uncommon occurrence because Pastor White was a teacher/preacher of the Word of God for a long time and his messages from God would cause you to think, evaluate and act upon what God has sent especially for you.

However, what was unusual is that the message that he had prepared to bring, wasn't the message that we received.

At the end of the service Pastor White told me that when he stood at the podium and opened his Bible,



God gave him a new title and scriptures; by the reaction of the people, there wasn't any doubt that God had sent His people what they needed.

This is one of many things that I loved about my former pastor; he always allowed the Holy Spirit to lead him.

He maintains that God

knows best and he, Pastor White, told Him long ago, "God, where you lead, I will follow."

**WHERE IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE?**  
--by Elder Philip White

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. . . " Psalms 91:1-16

Before a blessing comes,

there has to be a preparation—if you expect to get God's blessings, there is something that you must do—instead of putting your trust in man, put your trust completely in God.

When trouble, sickness, and disappointment come; when your friends turn their backs on you, if you dwelleth in the secret place, you are dwelling with God and God is dwelling in you.

Your strength is then made perfect in your weakness. God will instruct you in the secret place.

He will give you revelation (knowledge that is revealed before it happens) in the secret place.

If you dwelleth in the secret place with God, He will show you your weakness, your faults, your troubles, your sickness and your disappointments and He will show you your solution.

When you dwell in the secret place with God, He becomes your habitation.

The secret place is a place of protection, devotion, guidance, love, comfort, a safe haven, a shelter in the storm, a retreat, a sanctuary, and a hiding place.

When you are talked about, lied on, scorned, and misused things won't bother you in the secret place. You can't have inner peace unless you are in the secret place, under the shadow of the Almighty.

Let Satan send his fiery darts to harm you, but when he sends them, don't accept them. God's truth is your shield. His truth will stand, it will hold under any condition.

In the secret place God is your refuge (shelter) and your fortress (stronghold.) No evil will befall you, neither shall any plague or noisome pestilence (disgusting or dangerous) thing or person will come and disturb you, when you are in the secret place.

You can always dwell in the secret place of the most High and you can abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Daily ask Him, "God what is wrong with me." Then let Him show you in the secret place.

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## BONES, from Page 14

use some advice from my grandfather about this situation.

With that in mind, I went to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and told her I thought I needed to go to a body shop to see if I could get a new body. "Do you have any recommendations?"

She looked at me up and down and then said, "Just remember, it'll cost you an arm and a leg." And then she laughed as though it was funny.

I wasn't laughing on the inside.

Later that day, I checked my Bible for verses dealing with bones, but I had never thought of these verses before.

Psalms 51:8, "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

Psalms 34:20, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

I am a proponent of joy, but I never thought of bones being associated with joy. As I get older, I am discovering just how important my bones are. From now on, whenever one of my bones creaks, I will rejoice to know that God keeps all my bones.

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

## BOOKS, from Page 10

you'll read about another person you've likely never heard about. Though he was born early in the 1800s, Ward was not ever enslaved, but he knew the pain of inequality and so he dedicated his life to being an abolitionist. A contemporary of Frederick Douglass, Ward was also a minister, a highly regarded newspaper editor, a speaker, and he firmly believed that alcohol needed to be banned. Why his name fell into obscurity and why you should know about his life and his work makes an excellent read for anyone of any age.

Fans of MTV back in the day, and fans of music over the last forty years will love reading "Top Billin'" by Bill Bellamy (Amistad, \$29.99). In the 1990s, when MTV was still mostly a music channel on cable television, Bellamy was one of its biggest stars. This book remembers those years, and Bellamy's interviews and friendships with people like Biggie and Tupac, Janet Jackson, the late Kurt Cobain, Snoop Dogg, Eddie Murphy, and many big names. You'll also read about Bellamy's early life, his family, and his other work in music videos. Oh, and you'll laugh, because Bellamy's a funny guy. If you remember the 90s, you'll want this book.

And finally, if ancient lives are your thing, find "The West: A New History in Fourteen Lives" by Naoise Mac Sweeney (Dutton, \$32). Read about Phillis Wheatley, scholar Al-Kindi of Arabia, Herodotus (who was of mixed race), and twelve other influential lives that left their mark on Western civilization. History scholars: head's up on this one. This book is meant for readers like you.

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