



North Dallas Gazette

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Supreme Court sides with NAACP, invalidating Republican-drawn Congressional districts in Alabama

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a surprising decision on Thursday, the Supreme Court struck down Republican-drawn congressional districts in Alabama, ruling that they discriminated against Black voters.

The 5-4 vote means state officials must redraw the heavily Republican-favored map of Alabama's seven congressional districts.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, both conservatives, joined the court's three liberals in the majority.

The ruling by the court, which currently holds a 6-3 conservative majority, marks a departure from the state's attempt to make it more challenging to address concerns raised by civil rights advocates regarding the dilution of Black voters' power in states like Alabama, where voters are divided into districts where white voters dominate.

The cases brought before the court were consolidated and originated from the litigation over the new congressional district map, which the Republican-controlled Alabama Legislature drafted after the 2020 census.

The challengers, including individual voters and the Alabama State



Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, both conservatives, joined the court's three liberals in the majority. (Adam Szuscik / Unsplash)

Conference of the NAACP, argued that the map violated Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by discriminating against Black voters.

Under the new map, only one out of seven districts would likely enable Black voters to elect a candidate of their choice.

The NAACP contended that Alabama, with a population of over a quarter of its population made up of Black residents, should have at least two such districts. The organization presented evidence supporting the feasibility of drawing an additional majority-Black district.

In January 2022, a lower court agreed with the challengers, ruling that the plaintiffs had demonstrated, in line with Supreme Court prece-

dent, that Alabama's Black population was both sizable and compact enough to warrant a second majority-Black district.

The court ordered the redrawing of the map. However, Alabama's Republican Attorney General, Steve Marshall, turned to the Supreme Court, which placed the litigation on hold and agreed to hear the case.

During the November election, the Supreme Court was split 5-4 in allowing the use of the new map. Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative, dissented and joined the court's three liberals.

In the election, Republicans secured six out of the seven seats,

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People In The News ...



Dorothy Marshall, PhD



Cornel West, PhD

NDG Quote of the Week: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

—Mother Teresa

Dorothy Marshall, MD

Dorothy Marshall, MD has been appointed as Chief Medical Officer at Foremost Family Health Centers. Her stunning accomplishments in medicine emerged from a childhood experience that remains with her today.

"First, I want to make it clear that I owe everything to my parents. God blessed me to have the finest parents on Earth. They taught me to figure things out, to be inquisitive, to be a learner. My parents would take me to restaurants, and they demanded that I read off the



menu, make my own choices, and then lock eyes with the server and place my own order. At first, I was timid and overwhelmed—but that beginning lesson of self-reliance set me on an

educational and emotional path to become a life-long learner, emerging from a place of confidence," said Marshall.

Marshall, a Los Angeles native, attended Yale University and Boston University, and went on to study medicine at the University of Miami. She joined Foremost Family Health Centers four years ago focusing on family medicine and OB/GYN. Marshall quickly developed the reputation as a brilliant caring doctor who listened and was skilled in diagnosis. Bryanna Daniels, an early patient of Marshall offers this: "I was

bleeding uncontrollably for months and visited five or six doctors. No one could figure out how to help me... until I found Dr. Marshall. She changed the course of my life by figuring out what was wrong with me...and how to help. I never want to be away from her care."

Marshall has served as interim medical director for a year and was appointed Chief Medical Officer on June 1, 2023.

Said Marshall: My goal is to raise the level of confidence and expertise of our team to continue delivering world-class service to our community and altering the

healthcare outcomes of real people."

But the U.S. healthcare system is rooted in problems and inequalities in care and outcomes. Marshall understands the mountain of issues she and her team must conquer.

Said Marshall: "The end of the Covid federal health emergency is going to place vulnerable populations at greater risk."

Texas did not expand Medicaid. That means there's more people who will be outside of the healthcare system—a system that people already don't trust. Now, they will

be at greater propensity to fall through cracks."

The sheer numbers of uninsured or underinsured patients add to this challenge.

A recent survey reported nearly one in five residents in Texas (18.4% of the adult population lack health insurance.) In practical terms, what do these numbers mean to Dallas County (as the third most populous county in the state?)

"Parkland can't see everyone who needs treatment. The sheer numbers of uninsured make this impossible. Federally Quali-

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Cornel West, PhD

Renowned scholar and activist Dr. Cornel West declared his candidacy for the upcoming presidential race under the banner of the People's Party, as announced on Monday.

In a compelling video shared on Twitter, West expressed his intention to run for the pursuit of truth and justice, emphasizing that the presidency serves as a means to achieve these noble ideals.

With a strong academic background, including positions at prestigious institutions such as Harvard University and Princeton University, West is recog-



nized for his intellectual activism.

In his Twitter video, West articulated his decision to run as a third-party candidate, citing the reluctance of the established political parties to address critical issues concerning Wall

Street, Ukraine, the Pentagon, and Big Tech.

He referred to former President Donald Trump, a leading contender for the Republican nomination, as a "neo-fascist" and labeled President Biden as a "milquetoast neoliberal."

West's educational journey has taken him through esteemed universities such as Yale, Princeton, and Harvard, and he presently holds a professorship in philosophy at Union Theological Seminary.

Throughout his career, he has been known for his progressive activism and his outspoken critique of former President Barack Obama.

Fair wages, affordable housing, abortion rights, universal healthcare, the urgent need to address climate change, and preserving American democracy were some of the significant issues West highlighted in his campaign video.

The platform through which West intends to pursue his presidential aspira-

tions is the People's Party, which Nick Brana founded after previously working on Bernie Sanders's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

While the party attempted to recruit Sanders after his 2016 campaign, the senator declined involvement and subsequently sought the Democratic nomination

once again in 2020.

"Will we succeed? Only time will tell. But some of us are ready to fight until the end," declared West in his announcement video, leaning towards the camera, his words resonating with determination.

"We will fight passionately, with style and with a smile."

Grace O. E. Idehen

(24-7PressRelease) -- The astounding nine-year-old creative author, Grace O. E. Idehen, has caused is stirring the world of literature with the publication of her engaging first book, titled "The Golden Poems: Sparkling Verses of Wonders and Imagination: The Very Best of Children's Poetry!"

Her work has soared to the #1 spot as an Amazon International Best-selling Author in Children's Folk-tale and Myth Anthologies in the highly esteemed New Releases Best Sellers Rank in the United States. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to Grace's remarkable talent,



boundless creativity, and unwavering dedication.

Not only has Grace achieved phenomenal success in the United States, but she has also captured the hearts and minds of readers across the pond. Her captivating book has secured an impressive ranking of #45 in British

Poetry Best Sellers in the United Kingdom. Such accolades truly demonstrate the universal appeal and impact of her work.

Grace's exceptional achievement is an inspiration to aspiring authors, parents seeking to leave a lasting legacy, and individuals with a burning desire to share their ideas and stories with the world. Her journey serves as a testament to the power of determination, passion, and the unwavering support of a reputable publishing partner.

This delightful collection of poetry, which is now available on all Amazon outlets, Blurb, IngramSpark, Apple Books,

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Freedom Riders 2.0: Diversity Equity and Inclusion and 'Stay Woke,' Why should we care?

By Arthur C. Fleming

Why should we care?

What is diversity? Diversity is the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, color, religion, socioeconomic stratum, sexual orientation, etc.

What is equity? In the context of diversity, equity means systematic fairness, impartiality and objectivity in public work spaces, facilitating inclusivity.

What is inclusion? In the context of diversity, it means the addition of diversity and equity into public work spaces.

The opposite of "woke" is sleep. In my research, I found that in the nineteen twenties and thirties, "stay woke" was the African American watch phrase defining the African American community consciousness of that time--"stay woke" politically and culturally.

Today, in this moment of African American community consciousness, those words have again appeared in our collective intelligentsia and consciousness. "Stay woke," in this current moment of American political realignment, has been weaponized. The national Republican Party has weaponized the word "woke" to mean Black LG-BTQ, Black welfare, Black history, Black voter rights, Black Critical Race Theory (CRT), Black etc. The Republican party is attempting to define the entire African American diaspora experience as woke ideology.

On "Roland Martin Unfiltered," June 2, 2023 show, Roland Martin stated that 75 percent of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) jobs are held by white women. What started as Affirmative Action for African Americans became Affirmative Action for white women. Other Civil Rights

era programs for African Americans like Affirmative Action, and DEI, has come to mean diversity for mostly white women. Our Civil Rights community never addressed the "white women as minority" issue frontally.

For context, in the nineteen thirties, fascist-led government was on the rise in Europe, which led to World War II and millions of deaths in Europe and Africa. The cause and effect of World War II was a global realignment of world power. Today, America is the free world leader.

The African American growing political power and voting power in the context of racial demographic shift has created political fear in the white communities. This political white fear is enhanced and orchestrated by the same dark (light) money forces that have corrupted the current Supreme Court.

The Republican Party has politically implemented its "fascist, anti-woke" ideologies at the intersection of gun violence in schools, vigilantism, police violence, book banning, voter suppression, financial starvation of urban public schools, anti-DEI initiatives, bigotry, sexist systematic racism, environmental racism, and fascism.

The "Republican Taliban" party would be a more appropriate title for the Republican Party, as pertaining to a woman's right to choose.

Under "voter suppression," who and what was behind the loss of African American voter protection in the Shelby v. Holder Supreme Court case? The Supreme Court, led by Clarence Thomas, destroyed the voting rights pre-clearance provisions, and the Supreme Court is threatening to come for the remainder

of the Voting Rights Act.

Update--on June 8, 2023, the Supreme Court (Clarence Thomas voting in a dissenting 5-4 decision) ordered Alabama to redraw their voting lines to reflect the 27 percent African American population in the state. This is great news for Section two of the Voting Rights Act for now.

Who are some of the influencers that created and implemented the capture of the U.S. Supreme Court? Leonard Leo is the key influencer and admitted architect of the plan. Leo, a Republican federalist society influencer, twenty years ago designed a plan to capture the Supreme Court.

Leonard Leo worked with Republican influencers like Harlan Crowe, a Dallas real estate billionaire, now famous for a "Nazi hall of evil in his back yard."

ProPublica released a report detailing Clarence and Ginni Thomas's luxury travel that was paid for by Mr. Harlan Crowe. ProPublica also published that Harlan Crowe subsidized Clarence Thomas, the ex-Malcolm X disciple and his wife Ginni Thomas's lifestyle. Harlan Crowe paid private school costs for the judge's adopted nephew and bought Clarence Thomas' mother's house, where she still lives today. And no, I don't want him to kick her out; however, through dark money politics, Clarence Thomas was able to disable over 50 years of African American voter protection.

How did the "Extreme Supreme Capitalist Influencers" enter the African American communities' economic and social infrastructure without making a political sound?

The dark (light) money influencers come from the top one percent income earners or multi-million-

aires, billionaires and foreign money.

The now disgraced "Supreme Capitalist Court," who declared that corporations are people, and money is speech, is a case study on how "dark (light) money" shifted political power through corporate money speech from the American people to the Supreme Capitalist elite, which in turn attacked African American voter protections.

The "Dark (Light) Money Influencers' Court Capture Program" goes like this: Leonard Leo Federalist society operator and scheme architect created hundreds of mailbox 501(c) organizations represented as community organizations.

Supreme capitalist billionaires donate millions of dollars to these Republican Party affiliated mailbox 501(c)s.

Each organization has a purpose or project, like African American voters' rights protections capture. These 501(c) organizations create legal briefs around (example voter rights) laws targeted for change.

The legal brief is then presented to the Supreme Court as friends of the court briefs, using the Mailbox 501(c)s as legitimate community organizations, along with shadow docket tricks to get their targeted issue before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Supreme Court judges cannot legally receive gifts if the giver has business before the court, but Supreme Court financial documents show otherwise. The now disgraced Supreme Capitalist Court has resisted ethical guidelines suggested by Congress, while continuing to chip away at African American voter rights and voter protections already

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Keep up with the news

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Examining yourself for skin cancer is imperative

ROSEMONT, (Illinois) — Last year, 69-year-old Isabel Lievano's board-certified dermatologist diagnosed the persistent black spot under her nail as melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Though she lost her nail, she was thrilled that her dermatologist was able to save her finger and her life. Today, Isabel is a strong advocate for skin self-exams.

"Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Anyone can get skin cancer, which is why Isabel's story shows how important it is to perform a skin self-exam," said board-certified dermatologist Hope Mitchell MD, FAAD, who is in private practice in Ohio.

"Checking your skin can help catch skin cancer early when it's highly treatable. I encourage my patients to regularly check their skin for anything that is new or changing," she said.

Performing a skin self-exam means taking note



Audrey M. Jackson / Unsplash

of all the spots you see on your body such as moles, freckles, and age spots. Skin cancer can develop anywhere on your skin (including the palms of your hands, soles of your feet, mouth, eyes, genitalia, and buttocks, and is one of the only cancers you can usually see on your body. If you have darker skin, skin cancer is more likely to de-

velop in areas that aren't exposed to the sun, such as under or around your nails, palms, or soles.

During a skin self-exam, Dr. Mitchell says you should check your skin and nails for the ABCDEs of melanoma:

- A stands for ASYMMETRY. One half of the spot is unlike the other half.
- B stands for BORDER.

The spot has an irregular, scalloped, or poorly defined border.

- C stands for COLOR. The spot has varying colors from one area to the next, such as shades of tan, brown or black, or areas of white, red, or blue.

- D stands for DIAMETER. While melanomas are usually greater than 6 mm, or about the size of a pencil eraser, when diagnosed, they can be smaller.

- E stands for EVOLVING. The spot looks different from the rest or is changing in size, shape, or color.

You should also check your skin for signs of basal cell carcinoma (BCC), the most common type of skin cancer, and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), a type of skin cancer that grows slowly and deeply. According to Dr. Mitchell, BCC can appear as a dome-shaped growth, a shiny, pinkish area, a black or brown growth, a white or yellow waxy growth, or a

sore that heals then returns. SCC may appear on your skin as a crusted or rough bump, a red, rough flat area, a dome-shaped bump that grows and bleeds, or a sore that either does not heal or heals and returns.

Once you know the warning signs for skin cancer, Dr. Mitchell recommends following these tips to check your skin:

- Examine your body front and back in a full-length mirror, then look at the right and left sides with your arms raised.

- Bend your elbows and look carefully at your forearms, underarms, fingernails, and palms of your hands.

- Look at the backs of your legs and feet, the spaces between your toes, your toenails, and the soles of your feet.

- Examine the back of your neck and scalp with a hand mirror. Part your hair for a closer look at your scalp.

- Check your back and buttocks with a hand mirror.

"Make sure to record the spots on your skin and nails, including the location of the spot and whether it has changed," said Dr. Mitchell. "Ask someone for help when checking your skin, especially in hard-to-see places like the scalp and back. If you notice a spot on your skin that is different from the others or that changes, itches, or bleeds, make an appointment to see a board-certified dermatologist."

These tips are demonstrated in "5 Skin Cancer Self-Exam Steps," a video posted to the AAD website and YouTube channel. This video is part of the AAD's "Your Dermatologist Knows" series, which offers tips people can use to properly care for their skin, hair, and nails.

To find a board-certified dermatologist in your area, visit aad.org/findaderm.

Devastating heart condition can be reversed, new study shows

LONDON (Newswise) — Three men who had heart failure caused by the build-up of sticky, toxic proteins are now free of symptoms after their condition spontaneously reversed in an unprecedented case described by a team at UCL and the Royal Free Hospital.

The condition, a form of amyloidosis affecting the heart, is progressive and has until now been seen as

irreversible, with half of patients dying within four years of diagnosis.

The new study, published as a letter in The New England Journal of Medicine, reports on three men, aged 68, 76 and 82, who were diagnosed with transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis but who later recovered. Their own reports of symptoms improving were confirmed by objective assessments, including cardiovascular

lar magnetic resonance (CMR) scans showing that the build-up of amyloid proteins in the heart had cleared.

Lead author Professor Marianna Fontana (UCL Division of Medicine) said: "We have seen for the first time that the heart can get better with this disease. That has not been known until now and it raises the bar for what might be possible with new treatments."

The researchers also found evidence of an immune response in the three men that specifically targeted amyloid. The amyloid-targeting antibodies were not found in other patients whose condition progressed as normal.

"Whether these antibodies caused the patients' recovery is not conclusively proven," said Senior author Professor Julian Gillmore (UCL Division of Medi-

cine), Head of the UCL Centre for Amyloidosis, based at the Royal Free Hospital.

"However, our data indicates that this is highly likely and there is potential for such antibodies to be recreated in a lab and used as a therapy. We are currently investigating this further, although this research remains at a preliminary stage."

Transthyretin (ATTR)

amyloidosis is caused by amyloid deposits composed of a blood protein called transthyretin (TTR). It can be hereditary or non-hereditary ("wild-type.") The build-up of these protein deposits in the heart is called ATTR amyloid cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM). Current treatments on the NHS aim to relieve the symptoms of heart failure.

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MARSHALL, from Page 2

fied Health Centers [like Foremost] are part of the health care safety net protecting our communities. We are charged with the responsibilities of ensuring our patients receive quality, respectful care," said Mar-

shall.

"During the healthcare emergency, access to care improved for vulnerable populations, but now that it's over we are returning to pre-pandemic care models and the problems will

potentially be worsened because there is a greater disease burden on the healthcare system," offers Marshall.

Taking care of patients and uncovering answers to tough questions drives Marshall. She remains relentless in pursuit of an-

swers to solve the problems unique to these turbulent times.

"My vision is to develop the Foremost team to be self-reliant and fully equipped to take care of the communities we serve. Patients don't want to be dismissed and pushed aside.

They want to be valued and respected—and heard. That starts at the top. It begins with me. And that is what I will do as Chief Medical Officer."

Dr. Marshall continues to speak up and speak out to ensure the finest health care is available to residents of

the South Dallas, Fair Park and Balch Springs communities. As a little girl in Los Angeles, Marshall's parents empowered her to develop a unique and powerful voice. Today, she uses that voice to improve the health care outcomes of those who can't speak for themselves.



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Mississippi civil rights lawyer arrested for filming controversial traffic stop

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Mississippi civil rights lawyer Jill Collen Jefferson found herself on the wrong side of the law after recording a traffic stop involving officers from the very police department she is suing in federal court.

The arrest has drawn attention to the ongoing struggle for justice and police reform in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests that have swept the nation.

Jefferson, president of JULIAN, a prominent civil rights organization, had filed a federal lawsuit against the Lexington Police Department on behalf of a group of city residents just last year.

Her attorney, Michael Carr, revealed that Jefferson was apprehended late Saturday evening, June 10,



The arrest has drawn attention to the ongoing struggle for justice and police reform in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests that have swept the nation. (Photo via NNPA)

while documenting officers' actions during a routine traffic stop.

Despite numerous attempts to obtain comments from the Lexington Police Department, they have

failed to respond to comment requests.

The incident occurred merely nine days after Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke from the U.S. Department of Jus-

tice's Civil Rights Division visited Lexington to engage with community members regarding allegations of police brutality within the small town.

A lawsuit in which Jefferson is a plaintiff, alleges that Black residents in Lexington, a small Mississippi town about 63 miles north of Jackson, have been subjected to false arrests, excessive force, and intimidation, causing them to feel "terrorized" by the police.

In their legal action, JULIAN sought a temporary restraining order against the Lexington police department to secure protection for the town's predominantly Black population.

Jefferson has repeatedly emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating that it is both morally unacceptable and unlawful for Lexington residents to experience such fear and terror from the very police

department entrusted with their protection. Jefferson urged the intervention of both the courts and the Department of Justice without delay.

Jefferson's lawsuit exposed a disturbing pattern of false arrests, excessive force, and intimidation by the police against the residents of Lexington, her attorney insisted.

"As an advocate for her clients, Jill Jefferson firmly believes that this systematic misconduct has plagued the citizens of Lexington," Carr stated.

"Through her ordeal, she aims to bring to light the corrupt practices that have tainted this city, possibly inspiring a nationwide reckoning."

According to Carr, Jefferson complied with the officer's request to provide identification and questioned why she was approached while filming on

a public street.

However, she was swiftly arrested and charged with three misdemeanors: failure to comply, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

Jefferson remained in custody at the Holmes County Jail over the weekend, awaiting a court hearing.

Following negotiations, Police Chief Charles Henderson eventually agreed to release her without requiring a bond.

However, Jefferson adamantly refused to pay the \$35 processing fee that the jail demanded to secure her release because she thought her arrest was unfair and unconstitutional.

Her attorney noted that the incident further underscores the urgent need for comprehensive police reform and the significance of the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests.

New York, others grapple with worsening air pollution as Canadian wildfire smoke engulfs the region

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

On Tuesday, June 6, experts ranked New York as the city with the worst air pollution worldwide, as dense smoke from over a hundred wildfires raging in Quebec, Canada, drifted southward.

The persistently poor air quality caused by the Canadian fires has been a cause for concern in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions for over a week.

According to IQair, New York City's air quality index reached alarming levels, exceeding 200 at one point on Tuesday night, which falls under the "very unhealthy" category.

Consequently, the city topped the list of major metropolitan areas with the poorest air quality at 10 p.m. ET, surpassing even pollution-ridden cities like New Delhi, India.

Other cities affected by severe air pollution included Doha, Qatar; Baghdad, Iraq; and Lahore, Pakistan.

The detrimental effects of air pollution were evident when New York briefly held the undesirable distinction of having the highest levels of air pollution globally.

The pollution prompted at least ten central New York state school districts to cancel outdoor activities and events, including academic, athletic, and extracurricular pursuits.

Officials suspended recess and gym classes because of the hazardous air quality.

The smoke emanating from the wildfires contains extremely fine particulate matter known as PM2.5, which is not only minuscule but also highly dangerous, experts said.

When inhaled, those particles can penetrate the lungs and enter the blood-

stream.

Sources of PM2.5 include the combustion of fossil fuels, dust storms, and wildfires.

Exposure to the pollutant has been linked to various health issues, such as asthma, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses.

Additionally, health officials said that millions worldwide lose their lives yearly due to air pollution-related health problems.

In 2016 alone, the World Health Organization reported approximately 4.2 million premature deaths associated with fine particulate matter.

The concentration of PM2.5 in New York City's air exceeded the guidelines set by the World Health Organization by more than ten times, highlighting the severity of the situation.

William Barrett, the senior national director of clean air advocacy with the American Lung As-

sociation, emphasized the importance of staying indoors during high pollution episodes, "especially for vulnerable individuals such as children, senior citizens, pregnant women, and those

with respiratory or cardiovascular diseases."

Barrett urged people to monitor their health closely and promptly seek medical attention if any concerning symptoms arise during

these events.

Reportedly, Quebec has witnessed an alarming surge in wildfires this year, with over 150 active fires,

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Looking forward to great things ahead



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

First, let me thank the voters of Dallas ISD District Six for returning me to the Board of Trustees with 77% of the vote. Good things are ahead for Dallas ISD and our own local district, and I am ready!

Celebrating our grads

Graduation Day 2023 was another one for the memory books. It was the end of one chapter, celebrating our gifted scholars, and the beginning of

a new one, looking ahead to what's in store for them next. Congratulations to the entire graduating class and kudos to the valedictorians and salutatorians, especially those in District Six: At Carter High School, valedictorian Kyle Givens and salutatorian Elizabeth Guijarro; at Kimball High, valedictorian Belmary Aguilar and salutatorian Valeria Gallardo; and at Gilliam Collegiate Academy, valedictorian Nyla Luckey and salutatorian Jazmin Flores. I was honored to be a part of your big day and celebrate every student's success!

Early Learning kudos

Our big kids aren't the

only ones who got a chance to celebrate recently. Mark Twain School for the Talented and Gifted held a kinder- to second-grade awards ceremony for the young ones who worked hard throughout the school year. They made us so proud.

Nothing but gold for this team

T.L. Marsalis STEAM Academy's third grade chess team, one of the district's newest teams, captured three gold medals and a first place in their recent competition. They are all about winning!

Summer offerings

In June and July, Dallas

ISD schools will offer free options for students to accelerate their learning while taking part in fun, hands-on activities. Students will be able to attend district-created summer learning programs at designated campuses. Offerings include tutoring, Pre-K-8 Summer Cool Camp, High School Credit Boost, P-TECH & Early College Summer programs, college test preparation, robotics and science camps, and fine arts. To learn more, visit dallasisd.org/summerlearning.

Meals during summer break

The district's Food and Child Nutrition Services

will provide its yearly summer meal program to ensure nourishment for all students during the break. Designated Dallas ISD schools will be serving meals on-site Monday through Thursday. To learn more about the locations, visit www.dallasisd.org/fcms. Children under 18 and those up to 21 years old with disabilities can enjoy healthy meals at no cost.

One calendar next year

All Dallas ISD schools will return to one academic calendar for the coming school year. The first day of school for all campuses will be August 14. Remember to check dallasisd.org and the

district's social media sites for updates and registration events as we approach the beginning of the school year.

Safety first

Also remember that when school opens for the 2023-2024 year, Dallas ISD will be putting safety first by requiring clear backpacks for all students, at all grade levels. The district will provide each student with a durable clear backpack, free of charge. Parents may also purchase the preferred clear backpack, or the acceptable mesh backpack, for their students. For more information, please visit dallasisd.org/backpacks.

Giving parents better school quality data encourages them to consider less affluent, less white schools—to a point

WASHINGTON (News-wis) — For years, parents looking for data to compare the academic quality of schools for their children had one primary measure to turn to: average student scores on standardized tests. However, these scores are often related to factors that have nothing to do with instructional quality—such as family income or racial and ethnic background—and push

parents toward schools that are whiter and more affluent, exacerbating school segregation in the U.S. As a result, many education experts advocate using the rate of growth in student test scores, rather than the current status of scores, as a more meaningful measure of how well schools educate children.

In a study published today in AERA Open, a peer-reviewed journal

of the American Educational Research Association, researchers David M. Houston of George Mason University and Jeffrey R. Henig of Teachers College, Columbia University, found that providing parents with achievement growth data encourages them to consider schools with greater economic and racial diversity, but only up to a point.

For their study, Houston

and Henig partnered with research firm YouGov to recruit a nationally representative sample of 2,800 parents and other caretakers of children 12 or younger for an online survey, which took place March 16–31, 2021. Along with some demographic information about students, respondents were given achievement status data, achievement growth data, both data points, or no achievement

data for grades 3 to 8 for three schools in a randomly selected school district. With this information in hand, respondents were then asked to choose their preferred school.

Parents who received only achievement growth data unsurprisingly tended to choose higher-growth schools than parents who received just achievement status information. For example, when given just

achievement growth data, survey respondents choosing between schools in the Madison County School District north of Jackson, Mississippi, preferred a school that was 2.6 percentage points less white and 2.1 percentage points more economically disadvantaged, on average, than their counterparts without any academic performance

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HEART, from Page 4

ure (which may include fatigue, swelling in the legs or abdomen, and shortness of breath with activity) but do not tackle the amyloid (although a number of “gene-silencing” therapies are currently being trialed, which reduce TTR protein concentration in the blood and thereby slow ongoing amyloid formation).

Advances in imaging techniques—some of which were pioneered at the UCL Centre for Amyloidosis—have meant substantially more people being diagnosed with the disease than was the case 20 years ago. Previously, diagnosis needed a biopsy (involving tissue taken from the heart).

The imaging techniques also mean the burden of amyloid on the heart, and consequently the progression of the disease, can be more precisely monitored, making it easier to detect cases where the condition has reversed, rather than merely remaining stable.

The latest study, supported by the Royal Free Charity, began when one man aged 68 reported his symptoms improving. This prompted the research team to look through records of 1,663 patients diagnosed with ATTR-CM. Out of these patients, two more cases were identified.

The three men's recoveries were confirmed via

blood tests, several imaging techniques including echocardiography (a type of ultrasound), CMR scans and scintigraphy (a nuclear medicine bone scan), and, for one patient, an assessment of exercise capacity. CMR scans showed heart structure and function had returned to a near-normal state and amyloid had almost completely cleared.

An in-depth look at the records and assessments for the rest of the 1,663 cohort indicated that these three patients were the only ones whose condition had reversed.

One of the three men underwent a heart muscle biopsy that revealed an atypical inflammatory response surrounding the amyloid

deposits (including white blood cells known as macrophages), suggesting an immune reaction. No such inflammatory response was detected in 286 biopsies from patients whose disease had followed a normal progression.

Investigating this further, the researchers found antibodies in the three patients that bound specifically to ATTR amyloid deposits in mouse and human tissue and to synthetic ATTR amyloid. No such antibodies were present in 350 other patients in the cohort with a typical clinical course.

If these antibodies could be harnessed, they could be combined with new therapies being trialed that suppress TTR protein produc-

tion, enabling clinicians to clear away amyloid as well as preventing further amyloid deposition.

One such promising therapy is a single intravenous infusion of NTLA-2001, a novel gene-editing therapy based on CRISPR/Cas9. Early results of the trial, led by Professor Gillmore, indicate it may stop disease progression. This is the first-ever human trial in which CRISPR/Cas9, a Nobel Prize-winning technology that makes a cut in the cells' DNA and inserts a new genetic code, has been infused intravenously as a medicine to inactivate a target gene in a specific organ—in this case, the liver where TTR protein is made.

Jon Spiers, chief executive of the Royal Free Charity, said: “As an NHS charity, we are proud to be supporting this research. Our priority is to drive early-stage research that brings innovative treatments to patients sooner.

“This work not only represents a major breakthrough in our understanding of cardiac amyloidosis, but crucially opens up new possibilities for more effective treatment options. It's a hugely significant development that we welcome on behalf of all patients of the National Amyloidosis Centre and their families, many of whom have contributed to our research funding with their own fundraising efforts.”

Richardson unveils traffic box art winners

Five pieces of art have been selected as the winning works in the second annual Traffic Signal Box Art Contest. The winning artists were recognized at the June 12 City Council meeting, where it was announced that the artwork will be installed on traffic signal boxes later this month.

The City of Richardson

and the Richardson Kiwanis Club launched the Traffic Signal Box Art Contest last year to beautify local intersections using art reflective of the community. The theme of this year's contest was Richardson's 150th anniversary, with artists choosing what they wanted to celebrate about Richardson's past 150 years.

Winners were determined according to three main criteria – creativity, adherence to the theme and artistic merit.

This year's winners were:

- Charles A. Claudet III
- Jennifer Geiger
- Priti Boyd
- Christina Kieffer
- Richard Nielsen

In addition to their art-

work being showcased in the community, artists with winning entries will also receive \$200, a plaque and have their work published in the July Richardson Today and other municipal communication channels.

To see the 2023 winning artwork, as well as the 2022 winning pieces, visit www.cor.net/boxartcontest.



City of Richardson

Dallas ISD is bringing nature and the community into schools

What began as a teaching moment and a community improvement effort has turned Ascher Silberstein Elementary School into a place where students, team members, and the community can appreciate and learn about nature.

It all started when Principal Erika Pasieczny noticed how many dogs ran around loose in the neighborhood. She started to tackle the problem by instilling in students the responsibility that comes with owning pets.

"We realized that our community wasn't doing a good job of taking care of our pets," said Pasieczny. "So we started an animal room, so we could teach all the students how to care for



Dallas ISD

them."

Once the room was set up, Pasieczny, known as Dr. Paz by the school and community, wanted to expand and applied for and won a Dallas ISD Innovation Engine Grant, which awarded Silberstein and 20 Dallas ISD neighborhood schools \$50,000 each to support ex-

ploring and implementing an innovative program or initiative.

Through the grant, Pasieczny expanded the idea of having animals not only indoors, but also outdoors.

"We decided to make good use of an area that wasn't being used and

make a garden with eight raised beds, and a chicken coop—so it's an extension of our animal room," she said.

To commemorate the new chicken coop and garden, the school recently hosted a community cel-

ebration which brought together more than 100 parents, students, and community leaders to celebrate this milestone.

The new chicken coop not only provides a variety of learning opportunities for students. Its popularity

on social media has also turned it into a marketing tool. Several parents whose children currently attend charter schools in the area have asked to tour the school to see the new

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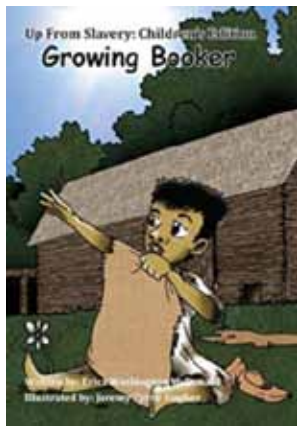
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Dallas African American Musuem to feature great-great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington

Dr. Erica Washington McDonald, the great great granddaughter of the Booker T. Washington, will read to the African American Museum's Summer Camp, excerpts from the books "With Books and Bricks" and her own book "Growing Booker" on Friday June 16th from 2-3pm. Both books are from the 1901 autobiography "UP from Slavery" written by Mr. Washington, a former slave who later became Tuskegee President and the icon for education Black Americans. The event is part of the Museum June-



teenth Celebration June 16-19th, 2023.

The program for children will include music, theatre, and dance with performances by Sandra Cren-

shaw, a Civil War Historian, reading the Juneteenth Story written by Alliah L. Agostini and Fifth Court of Appeals Justice Cory L. Carlyle portraying a Judge on conflict resolution. Dr. Erica McDonald is an educator from Atlanta, Georgia.

For Washington, "a brick is an emblem of the fruit of hard labor and perseverance and the joy that one can find in it."

For more information on the Juneteenth Celebration call 214-565-9026 or 214-498-5298.



(At Left) Booker T. Washington (at right) Dr. Erica Washington McDonald (Courtesy photos)

Juneteenth Celebration slated for Old City Park in Dallas

Come to the Park for the United States' second independence day as we acknowledge and celebrate the emancipation of the African-American enslaved. We'll be hosting with music, shaved ice, and Black History through tours, talks, and film.

The event will take place on June 17 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at Old City Park, located at 1515 S Harwood St, Dallas, 75215, with tour times at 10am, 12pm, and 2pm.

Old City Park and the land on which it sits has a long and rich connection with Dallas history. Site of many firsts, this piece of land became Dallas's first city park in 1876. At the time, it was simply called City Park.

The Cedars, an elegant neighborhood, home of many business and mercantile leaders, grew up around City Park in the 1880s and 1890s. The city's first zoo was located here and weekly concerts were given in the bandstand similar to the one at the Park today.

Browder Springs, which now flows underground, was the first water supply with a wooden water main carrying water to the young city. Turn-of-the-century



maps show a large pavilion, fountain, pump house, pond, and greenhouses. The greenhouses were open to the public during the day for touring.

After World War II, many people moved to the suburbs around Dallas, and highways were built to get them in to the city for work. Interstate 30 cut the Cedars neighborhood off from downtown, leaving the neighborhood and the park in decline.

The future of City Park looked dim until a group of women determined to save a historic plantation house from the wrecking ball offered the park a new role in the culture of Dallas. The ladies who rescued Millermore stored the disassembled pieces in a warehouse, and then called Ray Hubbard, president of the park board. He agreed with their idea to reconstruct the house in City Park, where

it became the first of 21 buildings transported here to become a village.

When Millermore opened here in 1969, the museum was called Old City Park. In 2022, Old City Park confirmed its commitment to education and recreation by opening its greenspace to the public free of admission, thanks to a generous grant from The Eugene McDermott Foundation.

Old City Park's mission is to provide a recreational space where visitors can connect with the past, inspire the future and celebrate Dallas' rich diversity. As Dallas's first and oldest park, the greenspace maintains a collection of historic buildings and furnishings as old as 1840. The park currently utilizes its space to educate and celebrate history, support local Cedars Artist Union artists through affordable studio space, park recreation and relaxation, agricultural development and research projects through East Dallas 4H, as well as serve as a venue for multiple events for adults and families year-round.

Inquire for more information at reservations@oldcityparkdallas.org.

William Blair Park to hold third annual Juneteenth festival and march, June 16-17

The North Texas Juneteenth Festival, March and Celebration, presented by Simmons Bank, Heal America, MicrosoE, HSC Health & Aging Brain Study Health Disparities, NAACP, and Dallas College will hold a press conference at William Blair Jr. Park, Friday, June 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to announce another year of family, friends, fun, and entertainment. Last year's Juneteenth Festival and Celebration welcomed over 5,000 guests.

The festivities will start at 10 a.m. with a 2.8 Mile March beginning at James Madison High School and proceeding into William Blair Park. "This is an Important event in the lives of African Americans in this country and especially this state as we fell two years behind the acknowledgement of the emancipation's declaration," said organizer and Elite News Publisher Darryl Blair, Sr. "This is an event that we are proud to host again this year along with our fine

list of sponsors. We are thrilled to see the return of those who participated last year and years prior."

Saying he realizes there are many celebrations taking place to honor this emotional date, Blair will outline programming that is more than a celebration. "We are pu]ng on a great event with a lineup of local acts performing on the Main Stage, (Darcell the entertainer, Mz. Connie, Soulful Sounds, Intense

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South Dallas Culture Center plays host to Juneteenth festivities

The South Dallas Culture Center (SDCC) will be celebrating Juneteenth with the highly anticipated unveiling of the extraordinary Juneteenth mural, created by renowned artist JD Moore. The event marks a momentous occasion in the celebration of freedom, heritage, and the African American experience.

The South Dallas Cultural Center Juneteenth celebration will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023 at South Dallas Culture Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh Ave. in Dallas, 75210.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the



ending of slavery in the United States, when it was announced in Galveston, Texas in 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

Major General Gordon Granger arrived at Galves-

ton with news that the war had ended and that slaves were free. Because of the small amount of Union troops in the South, many states did little to enforce the executive order. With the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865 and the arrival of General

Granger's forces, they were finally able to influence and overcome the resistance.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. On June 17th, 2021, President Joe Biden signed

the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

The observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the U.S. as cities and organizations come together in appreciation, reconciliation and commemoration.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom, while emphasizing education and achievement, and encouraging continuous self-development. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, community, food, and family gatherings.

South Dallas Cultural Center seeks to promote a more equitable, cooperative, and empathetic community by engaging the public with art and cultural experiences influenced by the African Diaspora.

The South Dallas Cultural Center Juneteenth celebration will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023 at South Dallas Culture Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh Ave. in Dallas, 75210.

For more information, please contact the South Dallas Culture Center at (214) 671-0058 or visit <https://sdcc.dallasculture.org>.

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data.

However, when parents received both status and growth data, which is what many states' school report cards and school rating websites provide, they

were more likely to choose higher-growth schools—but only those schools that happened to be as affluent or as White as those chosen by parents without any performance data.

"Adding growth information to the array of data available to parents and the public is a good thing to do, but our results indicate that it's unlikely to change parental behavior in a way that helps to diversify schools," said Houston,

an assistant professor of education policy at George Mason.

"As a community, we need to replace our status-based conceptions of school quality with growth-based ones so that we can identify our most

and least effective schools, regardless of the kinds of students they serve," Houston said. "School leaders, policymakers, and parents should continue to push for and focus on measures of school quality based on academic growth

over time. At the same time, making real progress may mean also working through the political process to build consensus for broader changes."

This research was supported by the Spencer Foundation.

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Film Review: 'Flamin' Hot' is an inspiring, well-told tale

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) If tenacity was a superpower, Richard Montañez would be in the Justice League inspiring people all over the land. His indomitable spirit is the heart of this thoroughly entertaining and very amusing biofilm.

Montañez's book, "A Boy, A Burrito and A Cookie: from Janitor to Executive," is the source material for this compelling look at a guy who rose from a blue-collar worker in a Southern California Frito-Lay plant to vice president of multi-cultural sales & community promotions for PepsiCo.

His story is a blueprint for the American dream. It's also his personal version of events. Frito-Lay released a statement that is a bit more ambiguous: "We value Richard's many contributions to our company, especially his insights into Hispanic consumers, but we do not credit the creation of Flamin' Hot Cheetos or any Flamin' Hot products to him." So those who view this inspiring



Jesse Garcia and Dennis Haysbert in "Flamin' Hot" (Photo via NNPA)

movie be forewarned—the truth of the matter might not be in every frame.

As written by screenwriters Lewis Colick and Linda Yvette Chávez and developed and directed by actress/director Eva Longoria, the narrative spins this tale.

Born in the late 1950s to a family of Mexican immigrants in Cucamonga Valley, between L.A. and San Bernadino, Richard Montañez (Jesse Garcia, Quinceañera) marries his high school sweetheart Judy (Annie Gonzalez, Gentefied). He hangs out with the wrong crowd and doesn't have a high school diploma.

Prospects for living the good life are slim, and with his dad Nacho (Emilio Rivera, Sons of Anarchy) constantly demeaning him, Rich has confidence issues. He leans on his friend Tony (Bobby Soto) to get him a job at a Frito-Lay factory in Rancho Cucamonga, and that kickstarts his career.

First day on the job he's the most inquisitive janitor they ever had. His superiors and colleagues try to dissuade him, but the man is unstoppable. He cozies up to Clarence (Dennis Haysbert, TV's 24), an engineer, who mentors him. Rich's curiosity, drive and determination make him

question why Frito-Lay products don't include outreach to the Latino community or the kind of seasonings they love: "They're looking for themselves on those shelves."

That fated day when PepsiCo CEO Roger Enrico (Tony Shalhoub, Monk) tells his employees to "think like a CEO" becomes that catalyst for his full-on entrepreneurial drive. Rich, Judy and his sons (Brice Gonzalez and Hunter Jones) experiment with sauces and flavors, homing in on Flamin' Hot, a burn-your-mouth, great tasting coating that gives Cheetos and other F-L products bang. He breaks rank, contacts Enrico, pitches his idea and the rest is history, or at least Montañez's history.

Wisely, the script throws hurdles, challenges, setbacks and advisories in Ritchie's path. Add in the father who never showed affection, and this sympathetic protagonist will have viewers rooting for him like he was a sports hero. Members of the Chicano community, who have

faced similar circumstances and headwinds, will relate to his plight and spunk. Audiences in general will tear up as Montañez blossoms into a leader—a Norma Rae, a warrior for the working class. Add in an engaging plotline, vibrant characters, consequential relationships, mentorships and friendships, and what's on view becomes more and more compelling.

A less talented director would have taken a straightforward approach. But Longoria turns her creative juices up into overdrive. Garcia's voice, as Montañez, provides voiceover narration in English, Spanish and street language. The cast is animated. Funny scenes, and there are many, counterbalance the corporate drama, tortured father/son dynamics, thug life and smoochy romance. When Frito-Lay upper management is at a company meeting, Rich reimagines it with the executives acting like gangbangers. It's funny, clever and shows that the film is not taking itself too seriously.

The love between Rich

and Judy triumphs because Garcia and Gonzalez flesh out the characters. Haysbert has a quiet, stoic presence. Matt Walsh (Veep) as the obstructionist boss is a buzz kill—in the best way. When Clarence and Rich support each other, it's very touching. The perfectly cast film (casting director Carla Hool) is augmented by an outstanding tech crew. Elaine Montalvo's costumes, Cabot McMullen and Brandon Mendez's production design, Federico Cantini's cinematography and Kayla Emter and Liza D Espinas' editing contribute to the film's success. And Marcel Zarvos' ("Fences") rousing musical score fills in any cracks.

This vibrant David versus corporate Goliath parable is worth retelling. Even if it's not the absolute truth. Why? Because it can inspire and empower people all over the land.

On Hulu and Disney+ June 9th, 2023. Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5muGkW_7UI

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

IDEHEN, from Page 2

and all prominent international book retailers, promises to excite the imaginations of young readers and inspire a passion for words.

The collection is captivating and showcases the author's creative abilities in writing poetry for young readers. From the tender age of seven, Grace's passion for poetry began to blossom, and she embarked on an incredible poetic journey. At eight years old, she secured the second-place position in a school poem competition, showcasing her exceptional talent and potential. Grace set out to write a book that would enthrall readers of all ages, fueled by her enthusiasm and the support of her family.

"The Golden Poems for Kids" features twenty-five carefully crafted poems that

transport young readers to a world of imagination, wonder, and discovery. Grace's words encourage children to use their creativity and embrace the power of language. With rhythmic flow and lyrical language, the collection sparks the minds of kids, creating lasting memories and instilling a love for words, whether read aloud or at bedtime.

Perfect illustrations filled with regal hues and serene simplicity accompany each poem in "The Golden Poems for Kids." From heartwarming themes such as family, friendship, and nature to the delight of creative expression, this collection presents a well-picked lineup of poetry that is sure to resonate with young readers.

"I am very excited to share my new book of poems with you," says Grace.

"The Golden Poems: Sparkling Verses of Wonders and Imagination: The Very Best of Children's Poetry!" showcases fifty of my very best poems. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed writing them!"

Grace dedicates her book to her parents for their encouragement and to God for His grace and enablement. As a young author with a bright future ahead, she looks forward to writing more books and continuing to inspire readers with her imaginative and heartfelt words.

Prepare to be captivated, inspired, and amazed by the poetic talent of this young visionary. Grace O. E. Idehen is a name you won't want to forget!

"The Golden Poems for Kids" collection is helping children across the country get healthy and happy.

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SK Signet opens Plano-based EV charger manufacturing facility

PLANO – SK Signet last week celebrated the grand opening of its EV charger manufacturing facility in Plano joined by Plano Mayor John Muns and officials from the State of Texas. This facility will expand U.S.-based manufacturing and R&D for cutting-edge electric vehicle charging equipment to support the growth of America's EV infrastructure. The project was originally announced in November, 2022 by SK Signet and the City of Plano.

The ribbon cutting marked the opening of SK Signet's first manufacturing facility in the United States. At full capacity, the facility will be able to produce more than 10,000 ultra-fast chargers per year and is expected to create up to 183 jobs by 2026.

"SK Signet is thrilled to be opening this facility in Texas," said SK Signet CEO Jung Ho Shin. "The opening of the SK Signet factory means new jobs for Texas and more chargers for American EV owners. We couldn't have accomplished this without the



Chuttersnap / Unsplash

close partnership of the State of Texas and the City of Plano."

The event included a factory tour, and Mayor Muns, and CEO Shin led a demonstration of SK Signet's new V2 charger, which will be made at the Plano facility later this year. The V2 product, which was unveiled at CES 2023, provides a maximum power output of 400 kW and can charge an EV up to 80% in 15 minutes – 3 minutes faster than existing chargers.

SK Signet welcomed representatives from key

customers of SK Signet, such as Electrify America, EVgo, and TerraWatt Infrastructure, as well as global semiconductor company Texas Instruments Inc. and cable specialist HUBER+SUHNER.

SK Signet will make a range of ultra-fast chargers at the Plano facility from standalone dispensers to power cabinets that support multiple dispensers. For use by U.S.-based public charging operators and commercial companies with EV fleets and traditional gas stations, the chargers can

also support convenience stores that are expanding their offerings. SK Signet will also manufacture its 350 kW ultra-fast charger, which can fully charge EV batteries from 20% to 80% in just 18 minutes.

These chargers, which supply EV users with faster and more versatile charging solutions, support the buildout of a national EV charging network and are aligned with the goals of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program. SK Signet's investment in Texas reinforces the leadership role that the U.S. has taken in the EV transition and the importance of training American workers to succeed in the highly skilled jobs that have been created as a result.

"We are very excited for the grand opening of SK Signet in the City of

Plano," said Mayor Muns. "Their investment in our community represents a significant milestone that holds immense promise for our community and beyond. The company's innovative technology and EV charging capabilities are remarkable, and we are thrilled to be home to their first manufacturing facility in the United States."

In addition to manufacturing EV chargers, SK Signet's Texas facility will house research and devel-

opment teams, manufacture power modules for EV chargers and conduct charger testing with automakers. It also will develop EV charging software and firmware to support U.S. customers.

SK Signet is a top global manufacturer of electric vehicle (EV) chargers for both consumer and commercial vehicles, and is a leader in fast and ultra-fast charging, boasting the first

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educational offerings. Of those, several are now planning to send their students to Silberstein next school year, Pasieczny said.

Volunteers come to work in the garden and are interested in helping with the chicken coop and animal room. While their help is appreciated, Pasieczny makes sure that it's the students who do most of the work so they can learn.

One of the most popular places for students to spend time in is the animal room, which includes both furry creatures and reptiles. You can find anything from a snake, a bearded iguana, an axolotl, or a guinea pig for which the students care.

Sandra Guzman, a teacher assistant at Silberstein, who has worked at the school for 17 years, sees

the immediate impact the animal room has had on the students.

"When students shut down, you immediately see them smile again. They come to this room and they forget that they're having a challenging day," she said.

Eileen Salas, a fifth-grader, said that working in the animal room has helped her understand and gain compassion for an unlikely creature—Larry, a bearded dragon.

"I love working here because it makes me feel calm helping these animals, and it's just a great feeling," she said. "I learned that bearded dragons are friendly. I used to be afraid of lizards but working with Larry has helped me get rid of my fear of lizards."

Students and commu-

nity members are not the only ones enjoying the new amenities at the school—so are the team members. This past semester, every afternoon a wheel was spun, and a staff member got to take a half a dozen eggs home. The winner would then send pictures of the food they prepared with the eggs produced in the chicken coop.

Besides eggs from the chicken coop, some team members have made fresh salsa from tomatoes and peppers grown in the garden.

With so many new ideas and possibilities for these spaces, Pasieczny says this is just the beginning of something new that will continue to open doors not only for Silberstein, but for the students, and community, as well.



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New glass manufacturing facility to bring almost 50 jobs to the area

FERRIS – On the heels of a \$35 million residential development set to begin construction next spring on 11 acres in the City of Ferris, an additional commercial development has also been secured, which will bring at least 50 new jobs to the city.

Ferris City Manager Brooks Williams has confirmed the development of the 80,000-square-foot glass manufacturing facility, which will be located in the 700 block of Interstate 45 South in the city.

Secured late last week, the glass manufacturing facility will not only create new jobs, but will add



Pete Wright / Unsplash

millions in property value, and spur further economic development in the city and region.

Contemporary Glass Tempering, LLC., has filed the necessary application with the City of Ferris to

construct a multi-million-dollar facility in Ferris along the Interstate 45 corridor. The facility will be in the 700 block of Interstate 45 South in Ferris. Construction is expected to begin in the next several

months upon completion will employ approximately 50 people.

“The City of Ferris and Contemporary Glass Tempering, LLC., have been working together for some time to reach this point and we are excited to have Don and his company come to Ferris,” said Williams. “The addition of Contemporary Glass Tempering is in line with the strategic plan of the City of Ferris and our goal to cultivate an environment conducive to strong and sustainable economic development.”

While Contemporary Glass Tempering also has facilities in New Braunfels

and Houston, the Ferris facility will be the largest of the three when complete, and owner Donald Wooten expressed strong thanks to Williams for helping facilitate the project’s new location overall.

Cities such as Ferris straddling both southern Dallas and Ellis County have seen a spike in growth over the past year and currently the region around I-45 has seen around 17 million-square-feet being developed in early 2023.

“The addition of Contemporary Glass Tempering and their facility improves our tax base, adds well-paying jobs to our lo-

cal economy, and continues to show how Ferris is Distinct by Design,” Williams concluded.

If you would like to speak with City Manager Brooks Williams to discuss new development in the City or speak with Contemporary Glass owner Donald Wooten, please let me know and I will facilitate an interview.

About the City of Ferris: The City of Ferris is a city located in both Dallas and Ellis County. It is located along I-45. A rapidly growing community, Ferris is 20 miles south of downtown with a total of 4.8 square miles.

Joint Center study finds Black Americans vary widely on their financial views

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C., think tank, has found that Black Americans are not seeing their finances improve in America’s current recovery.

The Joint Center’s latest report, “Pessimism and Hope: A Survey of the Financial Status and Aspirations of Black Americans,” found that more than half of Black Americans (57 percent) have credit card debt, about a third (32 percent)

have student loan debt, and over a quarter (28 percent) have mortgage debt.

Further, about one-third (33 percent) of Black Americans report having more debt than is manageable. The 39-page report noted that Black Americans have a wide range of credit scores.

Approximately three in 10 Black Americans (30 percent) report having a credit score that is good or very good, and around four in 10 (39 percent) report having a credit score that is bad or very bad.

Also, credit scores vary substantially with income,

with nearly half of Black Americans who make \$60,000 or more annually reported having a good or very good credit score; only 16 percent of Black Americans who make \$30,000 or less per year report having good or very good credit scores.

Joint Center officials said the full report, which examines Black Americans’ financial conditions and ambitions, contains research completed in partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago.

Officials said researchers took a community-centered approach to understand the

current financial situations, debt and credit, financial aspirations, and perceived barriers for Black Americans.

“This research is especially timely as Black Americans work to realize the full benefits of the current economic recovery,” Jessica Fulton, vice president of policy for the Joint Center, stated in a news release.

“By collecting and analyzing new data on Black Americans specifically, we gain insights into the economic well-being of Black communities — and, therefore, the combined national

economy — in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Fulton said.

“Our findings will serve public and private sector decision-makers committed to connecting more Americans to economic opportunities, especially those focused on financial well-being and wealth building.”

Among the report’s highlights, respondents identified medical costs as a significant barrier to proper medical care for some Black Americans.

For example, around one-quarter of Black Americans have skipped a medical test or treatment (22 percent),

failed to fill a prescription (23 percent), or failed to get medical care for a condition (24 percent) because of cost.

Researchers concluded that most Black Americans’ financial aspirations revolve around relatively immediate goals, with 80 percent of Black adults viewing things like not having to worry about monthly bills, not living paycheck to paycheck, having enough savings to handle an emergency, and being debt-free as very important to their financial goals.

See VIEW, Page 13

AIR, from Page 5

double the average.

According to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center, wildfires would have ravaged nearly 9 million acres across Canada in 2023, with Quebec alone accounting for almost half a million acres.

The impact of the wildfire smoke extended beyond New York City, triggering air quality alerts across parts of the Northeast and Midwest.

Philadelphia, Detroit and Chicago experienced the westward spreading of

the smoke, resulting in elevated levels of ozone and particulate matter.

The National Weather Service in Chicago cautioned active individuals, especially those with pulmonary or respiratory conditions like asthma, to limit their outdoor activities due to the unhealthy air quality.

Pittsburgh’s air quality also deteriorated to unhealthy levels, particularly for sensitive groups such as older adults, young children, and individuals with respiratory issues.

While forecasters expected moderate air quality in Chicago, Pittsburgh, and other regions over the next

few days, several areas, including most of New York State, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont, remained under air quality alerts.

Forecasters said they anticipate a cold front to move southward later in the week, pushing the smoke further south and eastward.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams urged residents with heart or breathing issues to limit their outdoor activities to essential tasks and expect smoky conditions to persist.

“Limit outdoor activities to the absolute necessities,” Adams declared.

DEI, from Page 3

paid for with the blood of our African American ancestors.

If this extreme Republican Taliban like party is willing to dismiss African American issues of concern like DEI and voter protec-

tions as “woke ideology,” the African American communities should frame the Republican Party attacks on African American education, history, and constitutional rights to vote etc., as “fascist ideology.”

Why should the African American community care about DEI being attacked by “fascist dark (light) money influencers?” Because the 2023 Texas legislative anti-DEI action was an attack on the African American communities’ potential, as true represen-

tatives of American freedom. Dear White America: You have no more rights and freedoms than the average Black voter. You have privileges that can be taken at any political moment.

What happened during 2023 Texas Legislative Session concerning anti-DEI

legislation is further proof that twenty first century politically influenced fascism is the same fascism faced by Martin L. King and Malcolm X in the twentieth century. Let’s fight for our children’s present and future. Freedom Riders, “stay woke” and let’s ride!

In order to defeat a thing You must call a thing a thing

History says this thing is “fascism”

Arthur Fleming can be found on Facebook at Dallas Civill Rights Issues group and reached at pflashes@hotmail.com.

The DEC Network expands into a \$2.1 million entrepreneurial innovation center at the Shops of Redbird

The DEC Network, the leading entrepreneurship ecosystem builder in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex, is set to launch a groundbreaking initiative with the construction of a 20,000-square-foot Innovation Center at The Shops at Redbird in Dallas. This new venture, known as The DEC Network's Redbird Innovation Center, will be developed alongside the recently announced Tom Thumb grocery store, marking a significant step in the revitalization

of the former Southwest Center Mall. The project is led by locally-based developer Russell Glen Co.

To coincide with The DEC Network's upcoming 10th anniversary on June 12th, a public ceremony was held, allowing the public to join the DEC Network in celebrating their achievements, with staff members leading informative hard hat tours of the site.

The Redbird Innovation Center, spanning an impressive 20,000 square feet,

is slated to open its doors in late December 2023 or January 2024. In addition to the substantial co-working space, the center will house The DEC Network's headquarters, provide business incubation, accelerator programs, and podcasting rooms, and offer an expansive event space. Notably, this project has received support from key partners PepsiCo and Dell for Start-ups.

CEO of Russell Glen Co., Terrence G. Maiden, "The

DEC Network at RedBird has been a great resource and place for entrepreneurs in the Oak Cliff/ Red Bird community to gather, share, and grow. The DEC Network's new and much larger space will only enhance its impact with a broader reach."

The Shops at Redbird and its surrounding Southern Dallas areas currently lack adequate entrepreneurial resources, making The DEC Network's Redbird Innovation Center a much-needed

hub for entrepreneurs in the region. This \$2.1 million investment aims to double the capacity of space for entrepreneurs in the South Oak Cliff/Redbird area, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, collaboration, and growth.

According to Branden Williams, a local Dallas entrepreneur who currently benefits from The DEC Network's co-working space, "Success is not a solitary journey; it's a collective effort. The DEC Network's

Redbird Innovation Center will be instrumental in creating a thriving ecosystem for entrepreneurs in the South Oak Cliff community. Their unwavering support, through programming, funding, and networking opportunities, has accelerated the growth of my business and that of many others. I am honored to be a part of this journey and look forward to witnessing the continued impact of The DEC Network as they expand their presence at The Shops at Redbird."

← VIEWS, from Page 12

With the battle continuing in Congress over the nation's debt ceiling, about 38 percent of Black Americans are mainly concerned with the possibility of reducing social security payments, which researchers determined poses a significant risk for many people's retirement security.

Republican members of Congress have signaled a

desire to cut social security benefits.

At the same time, Vice President Kamala Harris told the Black Press that such an occurrence was "a non-starter" for Democrats in recent negotiations.

The Joint Center also found that the most frequently cited barriers to achieving financial aspirations are related to the cur-

rent economy. High inflation, insufficient money to start investing, and high-interest rates were the most cited barriers in the study.

The phenomenon of Black Americans being harder hit by adverse economic influences and lagging in recovery compared to white Americans is not new, the report's authors stated.

They asserted dispa-

rate economic impacts for Black communities are also apparent in the current crisis.

Research from the current crisis shows the outsized impacts on Black communities.

"Based on past and ongoing work to expose disparities and promote equity, we know that structural barriers faced by Black Americans — the compounded

insults of health and economic consequences of COVID-19, the economic assault from the Great Recession, and persistent structural racism — are destructive to the financial well-being of Black house-

holds," the authors noted. "However, despite some distressing indicators about their current financial situation, most Black Americans are optimistic about their financial future, even at lower-income levels."

← EV, from Page 11

UL-certified ultra-fast charger (350 kW) in the U.S.

SK Signet aims to provide long-term, innovative charging solutions that meet consumers' desires for both increased access and faster charging speed in the U.S. and globally. The company has expanded its operations in the U.S. to support the growth of a domestic EV infrastructure. The goal is

to drive greater adoption of electric vehicles by making charging more accessible and less time consuming.

SK Signet is based in South Korea with U.S. headquarters in McLean, Virginia. The company joined the SK family of companies through an acquisition by SK Inc., the strategic investment arm of SK Group, in April 2021.

← BLAIR, from Page 8

the Band, Spoken Word, Broadway Dallas and many others)," he said. "We will also have A Kid's Zone, face painting, sack races, Fishing for Kids, Vendors Village with over 60 Corporations and Small businesses represented, as well as food trucks with a wide variety of ethnic foods and beverages."

This festival will take place at William Blair Jr.

Park (formerly Rochester Park) in South Dallas, June 17, from 12 noon to 6pm and it's free to the public. Organizers encourage attendees to bring lawn chairs and umbrellas.

For more info, contact: Sherry Blair / Elite News — Blair Foundation 214-775-9955 or 214-417-8729, www.elitenewsdallas.com Email: elitenewsblair@aol.com.



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What's a Whopper Got to Do with Anything?

By James L. Snyder

After my heart attack, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage enacted a dietary regimen in accordance with improving my health.

The theme of this dietary regimen is vegetables, vegetables, vegetables. I did not know there were so many vegetables in the entire world. Her primary vegetable, much to my disdain, is broccoli.

Even though she is quite persuasive and persistent I have refused to eat any broccoli. If there is broccoli on my dish for lunch or supper I refuse to eat anything on that dish.

My dietary regime is quite strict, and there are more things I can't eat than I can eat. I have, however, suffered through this dietary persecution for the last several years.

One thing I am not permitted to do is go to a fast food restaurant. Particu-

larly, I am not to have any cheeseburgers of any sort. That has been rather hard for me because the cheeseburger is one of my favorite foods. I'm expecting to have cheeseburgers in heaven when I get there.

I'm trying to keep up with her schedule; at least I've survived so far.

The other week something happened that changed my attitude along this line. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had several lunchtime appointments with her friends. It's one of those girl's time out in which I'm not involved.

I love it when an opportunity comes together.

There were about three days she would not be home for lunch. At the beginning of the week, she said, "I'm going to be away most of the time for lunch this week. Can you get your own lunch?"

It caught me by surprise, and I was slow in responding. After clearing

my throat, I said, "Oh, yes, my dear, I can take care of my lunch. Go and have fun with your girlfriends."

After hearing that, my head was abuzz with all kinds of thoughts about lunchtime specials.

The one thing I could not get out of my thinking was those delicious Whoppers at Burger King. I'm not sure why that was on my mind, but it was, and I couldn't get rid of it.

Some of my best times have been at that restaurant munching on their delicious Whoppers. When I'm eating it I have peace of mind.

Of all the fast food restaurants in my town, why was I thinking of Burger King and their Whoppers? This is the one thing violently rejected on my dietary regime.

I'm not sure how it got into my head, but I could not get it out of my head. All I could think of was how delicious it would be to nibble on one of those

delicious burgers. And then beside it would be French fries. Oh, what a wonderful thought. And then, to wash everything down was a large Pepsi. My heart is beating.

I had to be very careful because I have learned over the years that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can read my mind. How she does it, I don't know. But I been caught in many a scheme because of this skill.

If she knew what I was thinking then, boy, would I be in trouble.

In order to camouflage these thoughts, I began to whistle whenever she was around. When I was a young kid, whistling was one of my favorite hobbies. Therefore, whenever she came in view, I began whistling, and it didn't matter what I was whistling as long as I was whistling.

My plan was to ask her each morning as cautiously as possible if this was the

day.

On Tuesday morning, with subdued enthusiasm, I said, "So, you will be going to lunch today with your friends."

Then something happened I wasn't prepared for. She said, "No, we had to change our plans, and we won't be able to go to lunch until Wednesday."

I cannot tell you how much that discouraged my heart because I had been looking forward to having a big Whopper with all the accouterments. I tried to bounce a cheerful demeanor so she would not have any suspicions about me. I'll need to wait another day before indulging in my dietary pleasure.

Looking at me, she said, "That doesn't spoil your plans for the day, does it?"

Faking a smile, I told her that everything was okay.

I still could not get that Whopper out of my mind. I'm not sure what I will do if she doesn't have a lunch

date very soon.

Wednesday came and the same message was given. The lunch date for today was canceled until Friday.

How I will last until Friday is beyond any expectations I might have. I have never been haunted by such a dietary preference in all my life.

Friday finally came, and as I was sitting at the fast food restaurant nibbling on my delicious Whopper, I could never be happier. I guess it pays to be patient, and I'm going to enjoy myself.

My biggest challenge is not allowing her to find out my dietary plans for the day.

As I was nibbling my whopper I was reminded of a verse of Scripture.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James

See WHOPPER, Page 15

By Daris Howard

I was asked to teach music to the children at the church I attended. The children were from three to twelve, and we called it primary. I felt very inadequate, but the leader of primary told me the main thing I needed to do was to love the children.

And I did love the children. I loved them as if they were my own and thought of them that way. I was especially fond of one little girl.

Millie loved to sing, but she sang monotone. She sang as loud as she could, and though she was only four, she almost matched all the other children put together. One day, as primary was ending, one of the teachers pulled me aside.

"Don't you think you should see if you can get Millie to sing quieter?" she asked.

"Why?"

"Well, she sings so, . . . so. . . ." The teacher paused as if she was unable to say it.

"She sings so what?" I asked.

"She sings so badly," the teacher said.

"I don't think so," I replied. "I love to hear her little voice so full of enthusiasm."

"But next week is Fathers' Day, and you're having the children sing to their fathers. Don't you think her father will be embarrassed?"

"Not in the least," I replied. "If Millie were my child, I would be pleased to have her sing with such happiness."

The teacher just rolled her eyes and walked away.

I truly did not agree with her. I loved hearing Millie's monotone voice. It was a happy child's voice, and when she sang, it lifted my spirit, even if she wasn't on key.

But there was one child I was concerned about. Da-

vid was eight, and something seemed to bother him. He sang quietly if he sang at all. Usually, he just stared at the floor. But when we sang a song he really liked, he would sing a little and seemed happier.

When we practiced the song for the fathers for the next week, I gathered the children around me. David stood outside the group, staring at the floor. I went and knelt in front of him.

"David, I would love to hear you sing. You have such a beautiful voice."

He looked at me with surprise showing in his face. "Do you really think so?"

"Yes, I do."

As we continued to practice, David's whole demeanor changed immediately. He looked up, smiled, and sang every song.

The next week, when the children gathered to sing for the fathers, David sang out, though with a little bit of timidity. When we went

to primary, I had treats for the children and praised all of them, but I gave a little

extra praise to David.

When church ended, David's mother came to me.

She started to cry but final-

See SINGING, Page 16

Singing to a Father

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Your Defining Moment with God



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved." Genesis 32:25 & 26.

Every believer in Jesus Christ must have a defining moment in their life; a friend and I were discussing this fact one day because a man that we both know personally is fighting a drug and alcohol problem.

He constantly says that he wants to stop and straighten his life but doesn't seem to make any headway toward his desire.

My mind began to remi-



nice of my defining moment, when I came face to face with God. I went to church regularly but something was missing from my life and I didn't know what.

However, I knew that my oldest sister, Eloyd, had been praying for me all through my college years that I would come to the Lord, confess my sins and seek His guidance for my

life.

What made this moment so different? I began to think of how good God had been to me and to my family. I began to count my blessings one by one and I realized that only a God that loves me so unconditionally understood my misery and only He could help me and give me His peace.

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in one of his famous speeches, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" on April 3, 1968, he closed the speech with, "And so I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man! My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!" I believe that was his defining moment.

The last time that Jacob, in the Bible, saw his brother Esau after years of separation was when he manipulated the birthright from Esau. Jacob assumed that his brother was going to try and kill him.

Jacob sends gifts ahead as a peace offering. He spends a restless night in prayer asking God to spare his and his family's life

when he met his brother.

Jacob had lived a life of control and manipulation. Yet, there is something in Jacob God finds worthy of redemption (only God knows the mind, thoughts and motive of any man.)

Jacob now has a heart that wants to serve and be used of God. But God must do something in Jacob to carve away the bad traits in his life.

God sends an angel in the form of a man to wrestle away the ruthlessness in Jacob. *"When the angel saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the*

socket of Jacob's hip so that the hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man." **Genesis 32:25 & 26.**

Jacob's natural abilities were so great that God literally had to make him a weaker man, physically, in order for God's power to be manifested in his life. I believe that this was Jacob's defining moment; he came face to face with God.

If you let God do the work needed in you, even your enemies will be at peace with you.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in June 2016.)

WHOPPER, from Page 14

1:2-3).

The development of patience in my life is one of

the greatest challenges that I face, but the reward is heavenly.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver

Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Corey Anthony, Senior VP, Engineering and Operations, AT&T Volunteer Advocate and Past Chair, Dallas CASA

Priscilla Anthony, Volunteer Advocate, Dallas CASA

Cynt Marshall, CEO, Dallas Mavericks Chair, Dallas CASA

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SPRJ55189

NDG Book Review: Books for Father's Day by various authors and illustrators

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Dads are pretty good people to have around.

They can make you laugh and make you behave. They teach you fun things and help you when you need it. Moms appreciate Dads and you should, too. So why not look for these great books to share with your Papa, Dad, Pa, Father, or Daddy...

For the brand-new Dad who wants to start his child off right, "This is The First Book I Will Read to You" by Francesco Sedita, illustrated by Magenta Fox (Viking, \$18.99) is a great gift. Meant for the youngest kid, it's a gentle tale full of amazement and love for a newborn baby, and it may be one of the sweetest books you'll read this week.

If Dad has a little helper around, "Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock" by Jesús Trejo, pictures by Eliza Kinkz (Minerva, \$18.99) is



Terri Schlichenmeyer

a great summertime read. Little Jesús is going to help Papa today and right away, Papa puts Jesús in charge of a water jug that's also a magic clock. It's a big responsibility. Can Jesús handle it without getting fired from his job? Wrapped into this fun and lively story, there's a lesson here that's appealing to kids ages 3-to-6.

For the Dad who does it all, "Daddy Dressed Me" by Michael & Ava Gardner, illustrated by Nadia Fisher (Simon & Schuster Kids, \$18.99) is a biographi-

cal tale of a little girl who needed a special dress for a special day. Where would she ever get something like that? Kids ages 4-8 will be charmed to find out...

For the 4-to-9-year-old whose Dad is deployed, "When Your Daddy's a Soldier" by Gretchen Brandenburg McLellan, illustrated by EG Keller (Viking, \$17.99) is the absolute perfect book to have around. It's a tale of saying goodbye too often, missing a parent so much it hurts, and how a child can support (and find support!) until Dad comes home again. For sure, this is one of those books that makes a great gift.

And finally, for the slightly older kid who appreciates an afternoon of baseball with Dad, "Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series" by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Arigon Starr (Kokila / Penguin, \$18.99) is the right book

for both. It was 1911, Shibe Park, Philadelphia, when pitcher Charles Bender of the White Earth Reservation went head-to-head with catcher John Meyers of the Cahuilla Reservation. Opposite teams.

Two men who were pro baseball players. Both had faced a lot of discrimination to get to where they were. Who would win? Your 8-to-12 year old and your grown-up baseball fan will want to know...

If these great books for Dad don't quite fit him or your child, head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help. Your librarian and bookseller have access to millions of books, and they'll know how to find the exact thing you need for a happy read-aloud session or for sharing. Dads are pretty handy people to have around. A dad with a book is even better.

COURT, from Page 1

while Democrats won the majority-Black district.

If a new map had been implemented, Democrats might have gained an additional seat.

The Supreme Court's decisions in cases like the Alabama one have been seen as potentially contributing to Republicans' slim majority in the House of Representatives.

Alabama argued that the lower court excessively emphasized race when reaching its conclusions.

Attorney General Steve Marshall asserted in court

documents that the challengers' ability to demonstrate the possibility of drawing a second majority-Black district did not constitute sufficient evidence of discriminatory actions by the state. Marshall cited other "race-neutral" factors in map drawings, such as regional culture, identity, and the requirement for districts to have similar population sizes.

Over the past decade, the Supreme Court has weakened the Voting Rights Act in two separate cases.

In 2013, the court signifi-

cantly limited a crucial provision of the law that allowed for federal oversight of election law changes in specific states.

In a 2021 ruling related to Arizona, the court made bringing cases under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act more challenging.

This case is one of three that the court is currently hearing where conservative attorneys promote what they view as politically correct, race-neutral arguments to address racial discrimination.

In other cases, the court may end affirmative action in college admissions and strike

down parts of a law that provides preferences to Native Americans seeking to adopt Native American children.

The court is also deliberating another significant election-related dispute in the current term.

The ruling, expected before the end of June, will address a Republican initiative to limit state courts' authority to enforce state constitutional provisions in federal elections.

Should the court uphold the initiative, it could facilitate Republican-led legislatures' efforts to restrict voting rights.

SINGING, from Page 14

ly was able to speak.

"I don't think you have any idea what you have done for David," she said. "David used to sing monotone, and a few years ago, when we attended another church congregation, the primary music teacher told him he had a terrible voice and asked him to be quiet. He quit singing alto-

gether. Last week he told us he wouldn't sing for the fathers today, but after church last week, he happily said he had changed his mind. He told us what you said." She paused a moment, smiled, and said, "Thank you."

After she left, I pondered about what she said and considered what might have hap-

pened to Millie if the teacher had had her way. I thought that God surely loves to hear the smallest child happily sing, no matter how monotone or off-key the child is.

Millie's mother eventually signed Millie up with a singing group, and over time, Millie blended better and sang on key. And though I loved to hear her sing with her new expertise, I admit

that I missed her enthusiastic little four-year-old monotone voice.

And I'm sure her father did, too.

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



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