



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Civil Rights group challenges Harvard University's legacy admissions, alleging discrimination

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

After the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision to end affirmative action in higher education, a civil rights group has launched a challenge to legacy admissions at Harvard University.

Harvard's practice of preferencing undergraduate applicants with family ties to the college is in question. The legacy admissions program has long been referred to as a perk for those who are white and wealthy.

Lawyers for Civil Rights, a Boston-based nonprofit, filed a complaint, arguing that the practice unfairly favors predominantly white children of alums and discriminates against students of color. The civil rights complaint, filed by Black and Latino community groups in New England, alleges that Harvard's admissions system violates the Civil Rights Act.

The challenge against legacy admissions has gained momentum since the conservative justices on the Supreme Court handed struck down affirmative action on July 2.

The NAACP has thrown its support behind the effort, calling on more than 1,500 colleges and uni-



NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson (inset) is leading a challenge of Harvard's traditional legacy admissions practices. (Photos via NNPA and Emily Karakis / Unsplash)

versities to level the playing field in admissions.

The NAACP's initiative includes urging institutions to end legacy admissions as part of their commitment to achieving equal student opportunities.

The complaint argues that Harvard's legacy preference is unrelated to merit and takes away opportunities from qualified students of color. The complaint also contends that removing legacy and donor preferences would result in a higher admission rate for students of color at Harvard.

Ivan Espinoza-Madriral, the executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, expressed his con-

cerns about rewarding children for the privileges and advantages inherited from previous generations.

Espinoza-Madriral emphasized that an applicant's family background and financial status should not determine their merit or influence the college admissions process.

Critics argue that legacy admissions can no longer be justified without affirmative action, which the recent Supreme Court ruling prohibits.

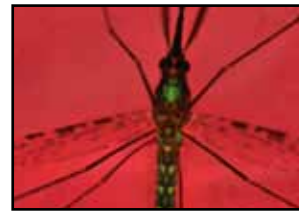
While the court's decision mandates colleges disregard applicants' race, it still allows for preferential

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### People In The News ...



Rahsaan Curry



Rep. John Lewis

NDG Quote of the Week: "I swear to the Lord I still can't see why democracy means everybody but me."  
— Langston Hughes



## Rahsaan Curry

Rahsaan Curry, a 23-year-old African American from Southern California, has achieved a remarkable milestone in the mortgage industry by becoming the youngest licensed mortgage loan originator (MLO). He has joined Kelly Mortgage, a leading mortgage company based in Aliso Viejo, California, where he will contribute his expertise and passion to help individuals and families achieve their homeownership dreams.

Rahsaan's journey into the world of mortgage lending was inspired by his family's



strong ties to the industry. Growing up, he learned about the intricacies of mortgage lending from his uncles, who imparted their knowledge to his mother, who, in turn, passed it on

to him. This familial connection ignited his curiosity and ambition, setting him on a path toward a career in the mortgage industry.

Rahsaan's appointment as a Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator highlights the importance of diversity and inclusion within the mortgage industry.

In addition to his family's influence, Rahsaan's passion for film, inspired by his father and his introduction to financial literacy, played a crucial role in shaping his professional aspirations.

Attending a Transformative Film and Financial Literacy boot camp, spear-

headed by the renowned actor, producer, director, and philanthropist, Bill Duke, provided him with invaluable insights and a deeper understanding of the financial world. During the boot camp, he had the privilege of learning from Karen A. Clark, who taught the financial literacy segment.

Rahsaan's determination, combined with his strong foundation in mortgage lending and financial literacy, makes him an exceptional asset to Kelly Mortgage. As a Licensed MLO, he is committed to assisting clients in navigating the mortgage process with con-

fidence and providing them with tailored solutions that meet their unique needs. His youthful perspective, coupled with his emerging knowledge, allows him to connect with clients on a deeper level, ensuring a smooth and personalized experience throughout their homeownership journey.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rahsaan to the team," said Tracy Kelly, CEO of Kelly Mortgage. "His achievement as a young African American male licensed mortgage loan originator is not only impressive but also a testament to his hard work, dedication, and the

support he received from his family and mentors. His passion for mortgage lending and his commitment to financial literacy aligns perfectly with our company's values, and we are confident that he will make a significant impact in helping our clients achieve their homeownership goals."

By breaking barriers and shattering age stereotypes, he is an inspiration to aspiring professionals, demonstrating that with determination, knowledge, and support, anyone can achieve their dreams. Rahsaan Curry can be contacted via LinkedIn.

## Rep. John Lewis

A stamp honoring late Rep. John Lewis was unveiled in an official ceremony at Capitol Hill. House leaders joined forces with the U.S. Postal Service to reveal a commemorative stamp paying tribute to the late Rep. John Lewis last week.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, and Linda Earley Chastang, Lewis' former chief of staff, were the prominent figures present.

According to a press release from the Postal Service, the stamp showcases



a photograph of Lewis captured by Marco Grob for Time magazine in 2013.

The design also incorporates a 1963 image taken by Steve Schapiro outside a nonviolent protest workshop, featured in the sel-

vage or margin of the stamp pane.

Officials called the combination of photographs a poignant reminder of Lewis' tireless commitment to civil rights and his instrumental role in the nonviolent protest movement.

Postmaster General Louie DeJoy, addressing the gathering, announced that the official dedication ceremony for the John Lewis Forever stamp is scheduled for July 21 at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

DeJoy shared plans to rename Atlanta's main post office in honor of the late congressman, acknowledging Lewis' immeasurable

contributions to the nation.

"Our nation certainly benefited from his fearlessness and his unfailing willingness to get into good trouble," DeJoy stated.

McCarthy emphasized the significance of Lewis' actions during the introduction of President Barack Obama at the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama, back in 2015.

McCarthy, a Republican from California, acknowledged the power of Lewis' words and how they transcended party lines.

"I may be in a different party; I may have different views, but I'm an Ameri-

can," McCarthy asserted.

"I got goosebumps and tears thinking how far we had come and thinking that John Lewis led the march on that bridge and led the introduction that day."

Jeffries, the Democratic Representative from New York, expressed his belief that the stamp would forever symbolize Lewis' significant contributions and serve as a tribute to his unwavering dedication as the conscience of Congress.

He called Lewis one of the country's greatest sons and deemed it fitting for such an influential figure to be recognized with a Forever stamp.

Lewis, a Democrat representing Georgia, served in the House of Representatives from 1987 until his passing on July 17, 2020, at 80, after battling stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Known as the "conscience of Congress," Lewis dedicated his life to advocating for peaceful protests and equality.

An original member of the Freedom Riders, Lewis played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, enduring brutal violence when Alabama state troopers fractured his skull during the infamous "Bloody Sunday" incident in Selma in 1965.

## Yusef Salaam

Yusef Salaam, a man who endured wrongful imprisonment, has won the Democratic primary for a seat on the New York City Council.

Widely recognized for the unjust ordeal that altered the trajectory of his life, Salaam now aspires to join the very power structure that once condemned him.

In 1989, when Salaam was just 15 years old, he and four other African American teenagers, collectively known as the Central Park Five, were apprehended by the police. Falsely accused and convicted of raping and as-



saulting a white woman in Central Park on April 19 of that fateful year, the group faced years of wrongful incarceration.

Reflecting on his experiences, Salaam remarked during an interview with the Associated Press at his campaign headquarters, "I've often said that those

who have been close to the pain should have a seat at the table."

Salaam's and his co-defendants' miscarriages of justice, which included Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, and Korey Wise, attracted national attention. Their convictions were overturned in 2002 when new evidence, including DNA analysis, linked the crime to a serial rapist.

The city awarded the group, now known as the Exonerated Five, a settlement of \$41 million.

"When people look at me and learn my story, it resonates with them," Salaam expressed with conviction.

"But now, after 34 years,

I can utilize the platform I have to repurpose the pain and help uplift people as we emerge from despair."

As a native New Yorker, Salaam passionately seeks to address some of Harlem's most pressing challenges, which include poverty, homelessness among children, the loss of Black residents, and the ongoing issue of affordable housing.

Plitcal experts said Salaam's campaign represents a remarkable journey of resilience and pursuit of redemption.

If successful, he said a goal is to leverage his unique perspective and experiences to advocate for those historically marginalized and neglected.

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# SCOTUS decision on Affirmative Action is a punch in the gut



**Crystal Bates**  
President  
DFW Metro NAACP

Last week's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to declare affirmative action in education unconstitutional in a 6-3 decision in the University of North Carolina case and a 6-2 decision in the Harvard case left me a bit emotional.

I'm reminded of the poem "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes:

*Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.*

*It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor —  
Bare ...*

For many minorities, this is our story and the reality of the majority of us. We've been marginalized and raised in severely underserved communities, but we dream and work hard to overcome the odds, adversities and systemic oppres-

sions that exist. We work 100 times harder than our peers just to try to realize a life of equity and equality on a playing field that's usually unlevel and oppressive for us. We want to see a brighter future than what our parents and grandparents did. We want to rise beyond generational poverty — we don't want to be a statistic or prohibited access to being skilled and educated. Many of us want more out of life.

I recall my last semester at the University of Texas in Arlington (UTA) when a group of my white peers asked me, "Crystal, are you the first African American to receive an economics degree from UTA?" They proceeded to explain that over the years I was usually the only African American in their economic classes. They decided to visit the dean to get the answer. As a result, I was identified and recognized as the 9th African American female to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the

University of Texas in Arlington. Please note that this was in 2005. Not to mention, I was also a first-generation college graduate in my family. I don't know what behind-the-scenes criteria were used for me to be admitted to UTA but this I know: then and now, we are underrepresented across this country in higher education.

In response to the Texas Supreme Court's ruling in Edgewood ISD v. Kirby, the Robin Hood law was enacted in Texas in 1993. The law recaptured property tax revenue from property-wealthy school districts and distributed it to property-poor districts to equalize the financing of all school districts throughout Texas. I reference this because even the Texas Supreme Court realized that there were financial resources available to wealthier school districts that weren't available in property-poor school districts. That is just one example of evidence that disadvantages exist, and we often are not afforded the

same resources to be prepared for college as other students may receive. Oftentimes, our parents may not be able to afford tutoring or college prep classes to prepare us to compete for college admission on an equal playing field as nonminority students are. Affirmative action efforts have provided access to minority students that otherwise would have been inaccessible in some cases.

As a result of today's ruling, many minority students will lose access to opportunities that would have otherwise existed. When we already must work 100 times harder than our peers, the Supreme Court has made the obstacles on that playing field even harder.

I strongly denounce the Supreme Court ruling on collegiate affirmative action. A great deal of statistical data provides evidence that minorities are faced daily with unfairness and inequality in America. Diversity, equity, equality, and inclusion are what truly makes America great!

## How the Biden-Harris Administration is continuing to promote voting access

By Susan E. Rice  
Domestic Policy Advisor

The right to vote, and to have one's vote counted, are bedrock principles of our democracy. The current administration has mobilized the entire federal government to strengthen our democracy and protect voters from suppression and subversion.

Unconscionably, state legislatures across the country have passed laws that make it harder to vote. Recent Supreme Court rulings have made it even harder to counter discrimination. To fight back against these

deeply disturbing attacks on voting rights, The Biden-Harris Administration have repeatedly urged the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act — including calling for changing Senate rules to prevent a minority of Senators from blocking action to protect this fundamental right.

On the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," President Biden signed an executive order directing an all-of-government effort to promote access to voting. Agencies have taken the following steps:

The National Voter Registration Act, also known as the "motor-voter" law, requires entities like state motor vehicles offices to serve as one-stop voter registration hubs, ensuring that Americans are smoothly, conveniently, and accurately registered to vote in the right place when they are already filling out other government paperwork. President Biden's Executive Order directed federal agencies, whenever practicable, to seek state designation as NVRA voter registration agencies. Now, for the first time ever, federal programs have been designated by

states as voter registration agencies.

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing a pending partnership with three states to provide voter registration assistance and information to veterans and their families and caregivers while they access services at VA healthcare facilities. The Department is poised to accept designation as an NVRA Voter Registration Agency requested by Kentucky and Michigan, and will serve as a Voter Registration Distribution Agency in Pennsylvania to

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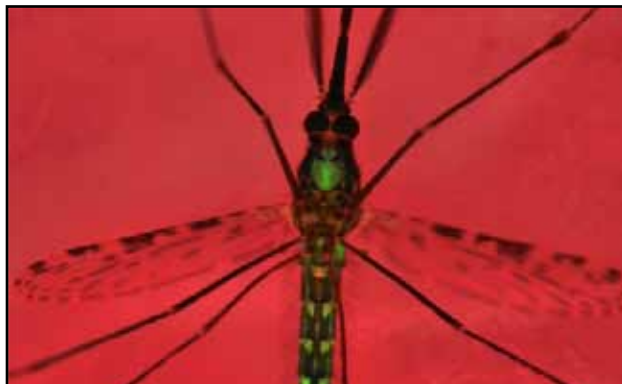
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## New genetic technology developed to halt malaria-spreading mosquitoes

SAN DIEGO (News-wise) — Malaria remains one of the world's deadliest diseases. Each year, malaria infections result in hundreds of thousands of deaths, with the majority of fatalities occurring in children under five. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that five cases of mosquito-borne malaria were detected in the United States, the first reported spread in the country in two decades.

Fortunately, scientists are developing safe technologies to stop the transmission of malaria by genetically editing mosquitoes that spread the parasite that causes the disease. Researchers at the University of California San Diego led by Professor Omar Akbari's laboratory have engineered a new way to genetically suppress populations of *Anopheles gambiae*, the mosquitoes that primarily spread malaria in Africa and contribute to



University of San Diego researchers have developed a new technology to suppress *Anopheles gambiae*, the mosquitoes that primarily spread malaria in Africa and contribute to economic poverty in affected regions. (Courtesy photo)

economic poverty in affected regions. The new system targets and kills females of the *A. gambiae* population since they bite and spread the disease.

Publishing July 5 in the journal *Science Advances*, first-author Andrea Smidler, a postdoctoral scholar in the UC San Diego School of Biological Sciences, along with former master's students and co-first authors James Pai and Reema Apte, created a system called If-

egenia, an acronym for "inherited female elimination by genetically encoded nucleases to interrupt alleles." The technique leverages the CRISPR technology to disrupt a gene known as femaleless (fle) that controls sexual development in *A. gambiae* mosquitoes. Scientists at UC Berkeley and the California Institute of Technology contributed to the research effort.

Ifegenia works by genetically encoding the two main

elements of CRISPR within African mosquitoes, genetically modifying two mosquito families to separately express Cas9 nuclease and the fle-targeting guide RNA.

"We crossed them together and in the offspring it killed all the female mosquitoes," said Smidler, "it was extraordinary." Meanwhile, *A. gambiae* male mosquitoes inherit Ifegenia, but the genetic edit doesn't impact their reproduction. They remain reproductively fit to mate and spread Ifegenia. Parasite spread eventually is halted since females are removed and the population reaches a reproductive dead end. The new system, the authors note, circumvents certain genetic resistance roadblocks and control issues faced by other systems such as gene drives since the Cas9 and guide RNA components are kept separate until the population is ready to be suppressed.

"We show that Ifegenia

males remain reproductively viable and can load both fle mutations and CRISPR machinery to induce fle mutations in subsequent generations, resulting in sustained population suppression," the authors note in the paper. "Through modeling, we demonstrate that iterative releases of non-biting Ifegenia males can act as an effective, confinable, controllable and safe population suppression and elimination system."

Traditional methods to combat malaria spread such as bed nets and insecticides increasingly have been proven ineffective in stopping the disease's spread. Insecticides are still heavily used across the globe, primarily in an effort to stop malaria, which increases health and ecological risks to areas in Africa and Asia.

Smidler, who earned a PhD (biological sciences of public health) from Harvard University before joining

UC San Diego in 2019, is applying her expertise in genetic technology development to address the spread of the disease and the economic harm that comes with it. Once she and her colleagues developed Ifegenia, she was surprised by how effective the technology worked as a suppression system.

"This technology has the potential to be the safe, controllable and scalable solution the world urgently needs to eliminate malaria once and for all," said Akbari, a professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. "Now we need to transition our efforts to seek social acceptance, regulatory use authorizations and funding opportunities to put this system to its ultimate test of suppressing wild malaria-transmitting mosquito populations. We are on the cusp

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## Killing cancer in a 'Flash' with improved radiation therapy

BALTIMORE (News-wise) — Radiation therapy is a common treatment used to kill cancerous cells. However, healthy cells also sustain damage during the lengthy treatment process. FLASH is a targeted radiation therapy that kills tumor cells while sparing healthy tissue. Like its namesake, FLASH delivers a short,

intense burst of radiation in a single appointment. Despite this breakthrough's proven ability, little is known about its mode of action against tumor cells.

Corie Ralston, from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, presented her team's research using X-ray footprinting mass spectrometry to investigate

the mechanisms that make FLASH a powerful cancer killer at the 73rd annual meeting of the American Crystallographic Association, which was held July 7-11 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel.

"FLASH refers to the phenomenon that very high dose rate irradiation will spare healthy tissue around

a tumor, but still kill tumor cells to the same degree as conventional dose rate radiation," said Ralston. "The fact that this will spare healthy tissues is counter-intuitive but has been demonstrated using different modes of radiation (X-ray, electron, proton) and in cells, tissues, and several animal models."

First discovered in 2014, FLASH treatment can be significantly more potent than conventional treatment. There are many possible explanations as to why this more intense therapy works at the cellular level. One possibility is that high dose radiation produces extremely reactive ions and molecules that selec-

tively damage cancer cells. Alternatively, the immune system might respond differently to the dosage level.

The research conducted by Ralston and her team points to a third theory — that a FLASH-induced low oxygen environment protects surrounding cells

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provide voter registration materials and information to veterans, their families, and caregivers.

The State of Kansas has designated the Haskell Indian Nations University, operated by the Department of the Interior, as an NVRA voter registration agency—the first federal program ever designated this way by a state. In July, followed by a formal proclamation

in September, New Mexico designated Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, also operated by Interior as a Bureau of Indian Education post-secondary institution, as an NVRA voter registration agency. These efforts help ensure students at institutions of higher education can register to vote smoothly, accurately, and securely as they enroll in school.

Vote.gov has launched an array of new language offerings, expanding information about voter registration and increasing accessibility to that information.

The Department of Justice has produced a guide for 50 states and the District of Columbia describing each state's voting rules for those with criminal convictions and gives information on how to reach officials in a particular state to register to vote and to ask questions.

The Department has also produced guide to federal voting rights laws, with information on the voter registration process, rights of voters under federal law, and resources for more information on rights.

The General Services Administration has issued guidance to managers of publicly owned federal buildings explaining the conditions under which federal space may be made available for nonpartisan

voter registration drives by 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

The Department of Labor recently reminded state workforce development agencies about its guidance and technical assistance to states seeking NVRA designation for American Job Centers and the other ways in which programs funded by the Department may assist with voter registration, such as Indiana, which designated American Job

Centers as voter registration agencies.

Agencies across the government will continue to implement President Biden's Executive Order using their own authorities, rolling out new initiatives and encouraging electoral participation. Today and every day, the Biden-Harris Administration is dedicated to making the voting process smoother and more accessible for every eligible American.



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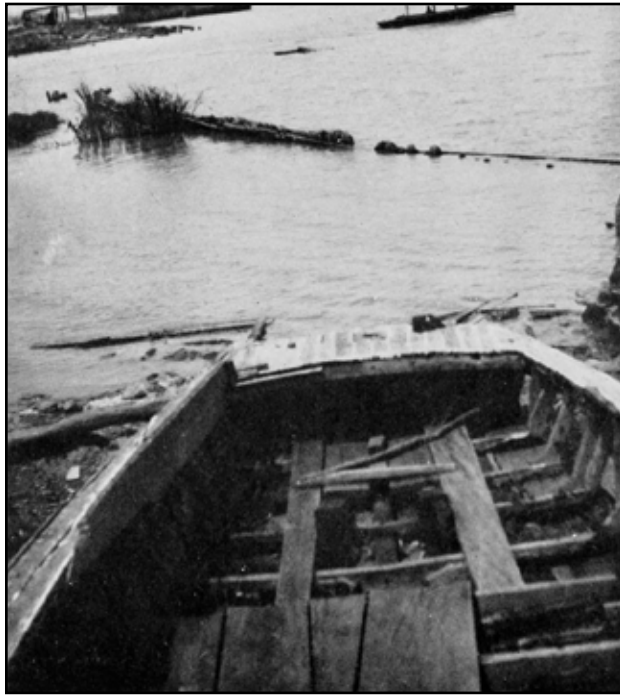


## Site will share stories of the 100 survivors of the last American slave ship

MOBILE — Africatown Heritage House is now home to “Clotilda: The Exhibition,” which shares the long-untold story of the last known slave ship to arrive in the United States. The site opened to the public last Saturday, July 8. The History Museum of Mobile hired the facility’s first-ever manager, Jessica Fairley, who began working earlier this month and is eager to share the incredible and inspirational accounts of the 110 survivors of the ship with visitors from near and far ... whether they come from around the block or around the globe.

This is a brief history of the Clotilda and its survivors:

Under the cover of night



Public Domain Photo

in the summer of 1860, a ship carrying 110 Africans slipped into Mobile

Bay. The Clotilda, the last known U.S. slave ship, made its illegal voyage 52

years after the international slave trade had been outlawed. Though it was illegal to bring enslaved people into the United States, domestic slavery itself remained legal until 1865.

Upon arrival in Alabama, the 110 captives were offloaded into the marshes in the delta of the Mobile River. To conceal his crime, the man who had arranged the transfer ordered the boat burned and sunk. After hiding the enslaved Africans in the wilds of the Mobile Delta, he divided and sold them at locations throughout Alabama.

When slavery was abolished in 1865, the 110 dreamed of returning to Africa but did not have the financial means to get

there. About a third of them pooled their limited resources to purchase land and transform it into an independent community they called “Africatown.” There they maintained their African identities; continued to speak their native languages; established their own set of governance; and built churches, schools and businesses based on what they knew from their homeland. In the ultimate demonstration of resilience, they created their own world on the northern end of Mobile. In the late 19th century, this was the only community established and governed entirely by African-born Americans.

In 2019, the remains of the shipwreck were identified at the bottom of the Mobile River, providing irrefutable proof of a 160-year-old crime. The sunken Clotilda also offers a tangible link to the 110, making their descendants a rarity among the millions of African Americans who long for specific details about when and how their ancestors were forcibly brought into the United States.

“Clotilda: The Exhibition” will focus on those 110 men, women and children, whose stories are shared through a combination of interpretive text panels, documents and artifacts, including some pieces of the sunken ship

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## City of Dallas and At Home’s permanent supportive housing

The City of Dallas, the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS), and At Home, the Home and Holiday Superstore, recently celebrated the completion of Dallas’ phase one of the City-owned permanent supportive housing property, the Resident Services Building. The residential units and surrounding grounds located at 4150 Independence Drive will be renovated during phase two of the project, which is anticipated to go to City

Council for award later this summer.

OHS and the City of Dallas are honored to partner with sponsor At Home who designed the layout of every room within the 5,000 square foot building with their donated furniture and accessories. The Resident Services Building provides the amenities necessary to help guests to successfully transition to stable housing and a brighter future.

“We believe in homes

for all. Partnering with the City of Dallas, where our Home Office is located, to positively impact our local community is in lockstep with our mission. Every person deserves a safe place to call home, and this work continues our ongoing commitment to provide beautiful, safe spaces in the city where we live and work,” said Lee Bird, Chairman and CEO of At Home.

By providing permanent supportive housing

and partnering with community organizations like At Home, the Office of Homeless Solutions is making a tangible impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals in the city.

“I am proud to have championed the opening of a permanent supportive housing center in my district,” said Dallas City Councilmember Tennell Atkins who represents Council District 8. “The Resident Services Build-

ing will be the gathering point where residents will receive case management, training, and other services. The building features the amenities found in every home that foster friendships and connectedness to the community. Truly, it is a model for the City’s future permanent supportive housing centers.”

Officials representing the City and County recently attended a ribbon cutting ceremony honoring

the project, which included Mr. Lee Bird, Chairman and CEO of At Home.

This project represents a significant step forward in the City of Dallas’ ongoing efforts to combat homelessness and support those in need.

For more information about the City of Dallas Office of Homeless Solutions and its efforts to address homelessness, please visit [dallashomelessolutions.com](http://dallashomelessolutions.com).

## Dallas Public Library searches area talent for next Dallas Poet Laureate

Applications are open for local poets interested in being the next Dallas Poet Laureate.

Every two years, a poet is honored with the poet laureate title to recognize a career in writing exemplary poetry and sharing poetry with the greater community. The Dallas Poet Laureate is charged with engaging diverse voices, activating the community and broadening perspectives in shaping and furthering literary arts and culture through creative expression.

Current Dallas Poet

Laureate Joaquin Zihuatanejo was named the first Dallas Poet Laureate in April 2022. In his first year, he has written and performed original poems for city events, led poetry workshops at schools, finished a collection of poems and held regular artist-in-residence office hours at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

Zihuatanejo last week hosted two informational meetings for potential laureates.

“Not so every once in a while, an opportunity is given to an artist that am-

plifies their own work and the genre they feel so passionately about,” Zihuatanejo said. “This has been my experience serving as the inaugural Dallas Poet Laureate for the City of Dallas.

“One of my goals as the inaugural Dallas Poet Laureate was to lay the foundation for future Dallas Poet Laureates,” he said. “To let the city, our city, know that we exist. To let organizations and schools in our city know that we can bring our tal-

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# Study shows only high levels of screen time harm preschooler academic skills

COLUMBUS (News- wise) — Despite the fears of parents, screen time doesn't appear to have overwhelmingly negative impacts on preschoolers' development, new research suggests.

The study of kids from low-income and minority homes found that the quantity of time in front of the TV, smartphones and tablets was not related to children's gains in language, literacy and math skills.

Children who had very high levels of screen use — especially at nighttime — did have smaller gains in some social and behavioral skills, but this was not the majority of children.

"There's been a lot of societal concern about the supposed harmful effects of screen time for young children, and it has really scared parents," said Rebecca Dore, lead author of the study and director of research at The Ohio State University's Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy.

"Some parents worry that every bit of media use is bad for their children, but we find that low to moder-



David Grandmougin / Unsplash

ate levels of screen time don't seem to matter," Dore said. "It really has to be high levels before we start to see some problems."

"These results suggest that we should stop demonizing screen media use and find better ways to support families and the education and development of children living in poverty."

The study was published recently in the journal *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*.

The issue is especially important for the low-income and minority families in this study, Dore said, because research suggests their children spend about twice as much time using screen media as their white

and high-income peers.

"Lower-income and minority households often face a lot of obstacles that make it more difficult to limit screen time," Dore said. "These results can help reassure parents that it is not uniformly and overwhelmingly negative."

This research uses data collected in 2018-19 as part of a larger study evaluating the effects of a 15-month kindergarten transition intervention for children in low-income homes in the Columbus area. The study included 179 children who were anticipated to enter kindergarten the following year.

Trained research assistants helped families com-

plete a 24-hour time diary detailing child media use, including when they started and stopped each session, what they were watching and what device they used to access it.

Children's language, literacy and math skills, as well as social and behavioral skills, were assessed twice at their preschools, in the fall and again in the spring, to see how the students developed.

Children in the study averaged nearly two hours of screen use each day, and 46% of that was nighttime use (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

Results showed no significant effects of screen use time on the academic skills assessed in the study.

High levels of screen media use were linked to smaller gains in social skills over the year of preschool, but only for those who used more than two hours of media a day.

High levels of media use may hurt children because it displaces other more beneficial things they could be doing, such as interactions with peers or adults, she said.

Children who spent high amounts of time in front of screens at night — more than one hour — tended to have poorer peer social skills than those who used low or moderate levels of nighttime media.

That may be due to less or poorer quality sleep, which disrupts children's ability to interact positively with their peers during the day, she said.

"Other studies have not been able to capture the potential effects of nighttime media use. And studies that did focus on nighttime media use have not investigated associations with social skills," Dore said.

One advantage of this study was the use of the time diary, which may be more accurate than asking parents to recall their child's media use on a typical day, as many studies do. The study also measured academic and social and behavioral skills twice, which allowed the researchers to see growth over time and how that was related to screen time.

Dore said the results should reassure parents who

worry about their children's media use. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that preschoolers spend less than one hour a day on screens, which is unrealistic, especially for low-income families.

"When many parents hear that their children shouldn't use media more than one hour a day, they either feel guilty or just write the recommendation off because it is so out of balance with what's feasible for their lives," she said.

"Sure, parents should monitor screen time. But there are so many other bigger problems that these low-income families are facing. We need to move toward more evidence-based efforts to reduce the barriers to their children associated with living in poverty."

Other co-authors, all at Ohio State's Crane Center, were Nan Xiao, Robin Sayers, Kelly Purtell and Laura Justice.

The study was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

## Board games are boosting math ability in young children

By Taylor & Francis

(News- wise) — A comprehensive review of research conducted over the past 23 years suggests that board games centered around numbers, like Monopoly, Othello, and Chutes and Ladders, can enhance a child's mathematical skills. This recent study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Early Years*, highlights the positive impact of number-based board games on counting, addition, and the ability to compare numbers among children aged three to nine.

The researchers emphasize that board games, already recognized for promoting learning and development in areas like reading and literacy, can specifically improve mathematical abilities in young

children. The study recommends structured programs or interventions in which children engage in supervised board game sessions a few times per week, facilitated by a teacher or another trained adult.

Dr. Jaime Balladares, the lead author of the study hailing from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile, states that "board games enhance mathematical abilities for young children."

Utilizing board games can be viewed as a strategic approach with the potential to positively impact both fundamental and advanced mathematical abilities.

Board games offer the flexibility to incorporate educational objectives related to mathematics or other subject areas.

The results of the study

demonstrated a significant improvement in math skills for over half (52%) of the analyzed tasks following the intervention sessions. Among the cases examined, children who participated in the board game intervention outperformed those who did not in nearly one-third (32%) of the instances.

The findings also highlighted that, up to the present, studies investigating board games in the areas of language or literacy lacked scientific evaluation. These studies did not include comparisons between control and intervention groups, nor did they assess pre- and post-intervention impacts on children.

As opposed to skill-based or gambling games, board games involve movement of pieces on a board

in turns. The fixed rules of board games limit players' actions, with moves on the board influencing the overall gameplay situation.

Despite this, preschools seldom employ board games, prompting this study to examine the available evidence regarding their effects on children.

The researchers aimed to assess the extent of the impact of physical board games in fostering learning among young children.

Their findings were based on a comprehensive review of 19 studies published from 2000 onwards, focusing on children aged three to nine years. With one exception, all studies examined the correlation between board games and mathematical skills.

All children involved received dedicated board

game sessions, typically occurring twice a week for 20 minutes over a span of about one-and-a-half months. These sessions were led by adults, which included teachers, therapists, or parents.

In some of the 19 studies, children were divided into groups, with one group engaging in number-focused board games while the other group played board games unrelated to numeracy skills. In other studies, all children participated in number-based board games, but they were assigned different types of games, such as Dominoes.

Before and after the intervention sessions, all children underwent assessments to evaluate their mathematical performance.

The intervention sessions aimed to enhance skills like

counting aloud.

The authors determined success based on four categories: basic numeric competency, which involves the ability to name numbers; basic number comprehension, such as understanding that "nine is greater than three"; deepened number comprehension, where a child can accurately perform addition and subtraction operations; and interest in mathematics.

In certain instances, parents participated in training sessions to acquire arithmetic skills that could be applied during the board games.

Dr. Balladares, formerly affiliated with UCL and the lead author, emphasizes the necessity of designing and implementing board games

See MATH, Page 14





Anita Cothran (Photo: City of Richardson)

## City of Richardson announces new Finance Director

Richardson City Manager Don Wagner has announced the appointment of Anita Cothran as the successor to Keith Dagen in the role of City Finance Director for Richardson. In this position, Cothran will oversee all aspects and functions of the Finance Department, which includes divisions such as accounting, municipal court, purchasing, tax, and utility customer service.

With more than 36 years

of experience in public finance and accounting, Cothran has served in various capacities for educational and municipal organizations. Currently, she holds the position of Chief Financial Officer for the City of Frisco, a role she has held since August 2020. Prior to that, she served as the City of Frisco's Director of Financial Services for more than 18 years.

"Richardson is a 'Triple A' rated community, largely

because of the experienced people we have in key positions that help to maintain our leading financial status," said Wagner. "Anita is a proven leader in the profession of public finance, and I am very pleased to see her join our team to add to our strength as a top-rated fiscally responsible institution and people-oriented workplace."

In her new role, Cothran will serve as a key member of the City's executive

management team. Her responsibilities will include planning, implementing, managing financial activities, providing strategies for organizational development, presenting the City's financial story to City Council members and bond rating agencies, reviewing rate models, recommending model changes and tax rate implications, and safeguarding the City's financial position through long-range financial models.

Additionally, Cothran will offer guidance on financial regulations and requirements, assist in managing capital improvement program financing, conduct detailed financial analysis, oversee financial report preparation, and establish and monitor effective financial policies to analyze strengths and weaknesses and propose necessary actions.

See FINANCE, Page 12

## Applications for Irving 360° Civic Academy open through the end of July

Irving residents can apply for the Fall 2023 Irving 360° Civic Academy through July 31 at 5 p.m.

The Irving 360° Civic Academy is designed to give participants a behind-the-scenes look at the daily operations of the city and encourage civic engage-

ment. Anyone 18 and older who lives or works in Irving can apply.

Beginning on Sept. 5, the 2023 Fall cohort will meet for 10 weeks. Each week participants meet at a predetermined location in the city for approximately three hours.

The classes are set primarily on Tuesdays after regular work hours with some weekend sessions.

Participants may miss only two classes to be considered eligible to graduate from the program.

Session topics include:

- The History of the City

of Irving

- Government Structure, Elections, and City Boards and Commissions
- Public Safety
- Budget and Finance
- Solid waste Services
- Water Utilities
- City Planning and Re-development

- Building Inspections and Code Enforcement
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Parks and Libraries
- City Communications
- Transportation and Environmental Initiatives
- Arts and Cultural Activities

Those interested in participating should contact Innovation and Performance Manager Lauren Hale at lhale@cityofirving.org with any questions relating to the program, including applicant eligibility and scheduling.

## ADMISSIONS, from Page 1

treatment of legacy and donor-related candidates.

The complaint draws on Harvard's data, which came to light during the affirmative action case before the Supreme Court, revealing that 70% of Harvard's legacy and donor-related applicants are white. Furthermore, being a legacy student increases an applicant's chances of admission by approximately sixfold.

The complaint also highlights other institutions, such as Amherst College and Johns Hopkins University, that have abandoned legacy admissions due to concerns about fairness.

It requests the U.S. Education Department declare the practice illegal and compels Harvard to eliminate it if the university receives federal funding.

Harvard University declined to comment on the complaint but reiterated its commitment to diversity and inclusivity in a prepared statement.

The university acknowledged the need to align its practices with the Supreme Court's ruling while up-

holding its values.

In addition to the legal challenge, the NAACP launched a nationwide campaign to promote diversity on college campuses.

The campaign calls on 532 public and 1,134 private colleges and universities to end legacy preferences, eliminate racially biased entrance examinations, foster faculty diversity, and support low-income and first-generation students through scholarships and mentoring.

The NAACP's initiatives align with another campaign that Ed Mobilizer started, asking alums from 30 prestigious colleges, including Harvard, to withhold donations until these institutions stop offering legacy admissions.

"Let's be clear, Black America is in a fight for our lives. The NAACP has been at the forefront of this battle for more than a century and we're not backing down," NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson asserted.

"It is our hope that our nation's institutions will

stand with us in embracing diversity, no matter what. Regardless, the NAACP will continue to advocate, litigate, and mobilize to ensure that every Black American has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

The call to action has garnered support from both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

While legacy admissions' exact prevalence and impact remain uncertain, some schools have publicly disclosed their practices. For example, the University of Southern California and Stanford University reported legacy admission rates of 14% among admitted students. A previous Associated Press survey of highly selective colleges found that legacy students constituted anywhere from 4% to 23% of the first-year class, with some schools boasting more legacy students than Black students.

Proponents of the policy argue that legacy admissions foster alumni communities and encourage donations.

However, a study conducted at an undisclosed

Northeastern college revealed that legacy students were more likely to donate but contributed to a lack of diversity, with most legacy students being white.

As the fight against legacy admissions gains traction, President Joe Biden

has called on universities to reconsider the practice, emphasizing that it perpetuates privilege instead of promoting equal opportunities.

"The truth is, as we all know it, discrimination still exists in America," Biden

stated. "[The Supreme Court's decision] does not change that.

The President said the Department of Education would seek new avenues in which to promote diversity at colleges and universities.



# Juneteenth, Fourth of July, and False Freedom: A Panel Discusses the 1917 Houston Riot

By Allen R. Gray

There are people who refuse to revel in the merriment of Independence Day—sucking on rib bones and watermelon rinds; and randomly busting explosives—in homage to a nation that based its very worth on the notion of inalienable rights, while bathed in the hypocrisy of a feigned freedom for Black people.

Soon after the fireworks and revelry subsided, a panel of historians, filmmakers and Civil Rights advocates gathered at Dallas' Pan-African Connection Bookstore Art Gallery and Resource Center soon after the stirs of celebrations for Juneteenth and July 4th. The panel met to fill in the gaps of understanding when it comes to being Black and being free in America by screening and discussing a documentary of a decades-old event. "Betrayal of Justice: A Buffalo Soldier Story" is a haunting and poignant documentary that reflects the brutal and inhumane side of human nature that was most prevalent at the turn of the 20th century.

The panel, moderated by talk radio host Ed Gray, was comprised of producer Lindell Singleton, Dr. Jacquelyn Cook Kyle, Co-executive producer, Reed Hadley of Jaris and Associates, Sam Allen, Chief of Police (Retired), and Fort Worth pastor and Civil Rights advocate K.P. Tatum. Nearly 100 guests joined the distinguished panel.

The exhumation of the meticulous details of historical events is always a difficult undertaking. But the more hideous events of Black history, though, have been buried so deep that Indiana Jones could not dig it up.

Singleton, the film's writer, and director was able to give voice and vision to the ghosts of the Black



(Top Photo) Reed Hadley and Sam Allen, (Bottom left) Ed Gray, (Bottom Right) Lindell Singleton. (Photos: Allen Gray)

soldiers that either died or were executed as a result of the so-called Houston Riot that was brought about by sadistic police and white mob violence. The "Riot" occurred during one of the bloodiest periods in America's racial conflict, and eventually resulted in the largest courts-martial and murder trials in our nation's history. The detailed facts of that dank, rainy August night were never brought forth as not a single witness was called by the military tribunal to either confirm or deny what unfolded during the skirmish.

The panel maintained that integral parts of Black history like the story of the Black soldiers of Camp Logan have been deliberately buried in obscurity by white society; and measures like the Critical Race Theory will only bury Black history deeper still.

"Critical Race Theory is taking information out of schoolbooks that should be there for the sake of (true) history," Gray stated. "It is part of our history."

"That is the significance of this film," Gray contended. "That is the signifi-

cance of why you are here today."

Director Singleton said he became involved in the production of the film when Allen asked that he do a 30-second promotional as a commemorative of the 100th anniversary of the Camp Logan incident. Singleton shared that when he looked deeper into the facts surrounding the Houston incident, he became hooked. The 30-second promo mutated into 15-minute documentary... and the documentary will evolve into a four-part exploration of how the case affected the Black men and their families.

"We won't get better unless we know the (unaltered) truth," Dr. Kyle stated.

Dr. Kyle submitted that "fictive kinship" would have one consider that injustice affects not only the victim soldiers, but it also causes harm to the family of the victims. "The cycle (of injustice) has to be broken, and anything we can do as people to break that cycle has to be done."

See RIOT, Page 11



# 'The Book of Mormon' returns to North Texas July 28-30 at Bass Hall and August 1-6 at The Music Hall at Fair Park

Performing Arts Fort Worth, Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America will bring "The Book of Mormon" back to North Texas. The musical features book, music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez and Matt Stone, and it is directed by Parker and two-time Tony Award® winner Casey Nicholaw and is choreographed by Nicholaw.

Since opening on March 24, 2011, "The Book of Mormon" has become one of the most successful shows in Broadway history, breaking the Eugene O'Neill Theatre house record more than 50 times. In addition to nine Tony Awards® including Best Musical and the Grammy® for Best Musical Theatre Album, "The Book of Mormon" won five Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, the NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the Drama League Award for Best Musical and four Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Musical.

The West End produc-



Courtesy photos

tion opened in February 2013, winning four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical, and breaking the record for the highest single day of sales in West End history. The first-ever UK and European tour launched in Manchester in June 2019, winning 'Best Theatre Show' at the Manchester Evening News City Life Awards before touring throughout the UK and Europe.

"The Book of Mormon" has been performed on three continents and has won over 30 international awards. The musical has smashed long-standing box office re-

records in New York, London, Melbourne, Sydney and in cities across the U.S. and the world.

The tour is directed and choreographed by Jennifer Werner based on the original Broadway direction and choreography. Set design is by three-time Tony Award® winner Scott Pask, costume design is by Tony Award® winner Ann Roth, lighting design is by five-time Tony Award® winner Brian MacDevitt, sound design is by two-time Tony Award® winner Brian Ronan, and hair design is by Josh Marquette.

Orchestrations are by

Tony Award® winner Larry Hochman and two-time Tony Award® winner Stephen Oremus. Music supervision and vocal arrangements are by Stephen Oremus. Casting is by Carrie Gardner.

The Original Broadway Cast Recording for "The Book of Mormon," winner of the 2011 Grammy Award® for Best Musical Theater Album, is available on Ghostlight Records.

Network Presentations (Producer) is an industry-leading producer of touring theatrical productions, committed to delivering quality

entertainment to audiences worldwide for more than 25 years. [www.networkstours.com](http://www.networkstours.com).

The show will run at Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall July 28-30 as part of the Broadway at the Bass Series presented by PNC Bank. The tour will then play Dallas' Music Hall at Fair Park from August 1-6 as part of the Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas.

For Fort Worth engagement tickets visit [basshall.com](http://basshall.com) or call 817-212-4280. For group sales discounts please visit [www.basshall.com/groups](http://www.basshall.com/groups).

Dallas engagement tickets are available at [BroadwayDallas.org](http://BroadwayDallas.org) or by calling 800-982-2787. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing [Groups@BroadwayDallas.org](mailto:Groups@BroadwayDallas.org).

In 2022, Dallas Summer Musicals changed its name to Broadway Dallas. Since 1941, the non-profit Broadway Dallas has presented the Best of Broadway to

North Texas audiences. Located in the historic Music Hall at Fair Park, Broadway Dallas promotes excellence in live musical theatre with year-round performances for diverse audiences of all ages, impacting the lives of children and families through education and community outreach programs, while enriching the cultural landscape of North Texas and the Southwest Region. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Broadway Dallas relies on a variety of funding sources to offer affordable ticket prices, preserve the beautiful historic theatre, educate young audiences and develop impactful community programs. Broadway Dallas gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors, annual fund donors and corporate partners Germania Insurance, American Airlines, Texas Instruments, The Dallas Morning News, and WFAA TV Channel 8. For more information about Broadway Dallas, visit our website at [BroadwayDallas.org](http://BroadwayDallas.org).

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# NDG Book Review: Books for a child's summer vacation

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The B-word has shown its ugly face in your house a time or two this summer.

Not birds or bats, not babies or bunnies. No, this B-word tells you that it's time to give your kids something new to do. No more BOREDOM when you've got BOOKS, and these great books will keep your kids entertained.

For young readers ages 3-5, "Sam and the Incredible African and American Food Fight" by Shannon Gibney, illustrated by Charly Palmer (University of Minnesota Press, \$17.95) is a fun book about a boy who's just plain hungry, but cultures clash in his



kitchen and his stomach's growling! Will dinner ever be finished? This book is yummy.

Kids who love comic books will want to read and re-read "Like Lava in My Veins" by Derrick Barnes, art by Shawn Martinbrough with Adriano Lucas (Penguin, \$18.99). It's a comic-book-like story of a young

man with superpowers but good luck getting a teacher who can understand him. When he changes classes, everything else changes, too, and your 7-to-10-year-old will love knowing about it.

Your 6-to-10-year-old dinosaur lover will roar over "How to Survive in the Age of Dinosaurs" by Stephanie Warren Drimmer (National Geographic Kids, \$9.99). Filled with lots of full-color illustrations, plenty of "Hey, listen to this" sidebars and stories, and all kinds of stats, your child will become a dino expert in short order. Heads up: it's a great take-it-on-vacation read, too.

The kid who got a puppy

this summer, or who wants to more about dogs will beg for "A First Guide to Dogs: Understanding Your Very Best Friend" by Dr. John Bradshaw, illustrated by Clare Elsom (Penguin, \$7.99). Part chapter book with a fictional story, part instruction, it'll make any dog-loving 7-to-11-year-old happy and quite knowledgeable. Woof!

Your future doctor or nurse will very much enjoy "Why? The Human Body" by Page Towler (National Geographic Kids, \$12.99). Why can't you stare at the sun? Why do you breathe air? Why

does a tasty ice cream cone sometimes hurt your teeth? This is a book that answers all kinds of questions about how we move, think, and experience the world in our human bodies, and your 9-to-14-year-old will devour it.

And finally, don't be surprised if you want to borrow back "The National Geographic Kids Almanac 2024" (National Geographic Kids, \$15.99 paperback / \$25.90 hardcover). There's a little something for everybody ages 11-and-up here: jokes, quizzes, cartoons, chapters on food, mythology, weather, science, his-

tory, and more. Dip in her and learn about Amelia Earhart, page over there to find out about ways to be an ecology hero, flip again and read about animals. This book is truly a browser's delight.

If these great books don't quite fill your child's summertime wish list, then be sure to check with your favorite bookseller or librarian. They'll know exactly what will hold your young reader's interest, no matter how old the child. They'll know how to keep away the B word (bored) and replace it with these B words: beautiful books!

## MALARIA, from Page 4

of making a major impact in the world and won't stop until that's achieved."

The researchers note that the technology behind Ifegenia could be adapted to other species that spread deadly diseases, such as mosquitoes known to transmit dengue (break-bone fever), chikungunya and yel-

low fever viruses.

The full author list includes Andrea Smidler, James Pai, Reema Apte, Hector Sanchez C., Rodrigo Corder, Eileen Jeffrey Gutierrez, Neha Thakre, Igor Antoshechkin, John Marshall and Omar Akbari.

Funding for the research was provided by: a DARPA

Safe Genes Program Grant (HR0011-17-2-0047), a National Institutes of Health award (R01AI151004) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (INV-017683).

Akbari is a co-founder with equity interest of Agragene Inc. and Synvect Inc. Akbari, Apte, Pai and Smidler have filed a provisional patent application on the Ifegenia technology.

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# Plano noted as top city to start a marriage in recent analysis

For the roughly 2 million new marriages recorded every year, finding a good place to live may be an important first step. It seems that some places may be better than others in providing the right setting for young couples to live stimulating and active lives.

In this analysis, researchers considered available housing, career opportunities, destinations, and quality of life to help decipher which cities might provide a good setting to establish that fundamental relationship.

The analysis ranked cities based on their ability to support activity and financial sustainability. Considering cities of over 200,000 population, the analysis

The 10 Best Places to Move to as a Newlywed Couple



Available housing, career opportunities, destinations, and quality of life were considered to rank the best cities for new couples. (Courtesy photo)

considered social factors (marriage and divorce rates) and economic fac-

tors (income, employment, home and utility costs). The analysis also looked at

quality of life elements, including air quality and access to restaurants and recreation. Online interest for couple-oriented activities and self-storage options were also considered.

Compared to larger cities, mid-size cities of between 100,000 and 500,000 people appeared to have more of what it takes to provide a balanced mix of key opportunities, according to the research.

With under 300,000 population, Plano did very well in the ranking, at number 3. While Plano carries an urban quality associated with being a part of the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolis, it also maintains a small-town atmosphere.

With 2.7 dining places

per 1,000 individuals, Plano offers the excitement of having a variety of food choices to try. With a high number of outdoor recreational options (3.4 miles of improved trails, four tennis courts, five basketball hoops and .7 swimming pools per 10,000 residents), the city is also equipped to respond to people who enjoy the outdoors.

A large proportion (almost 60%) of Plano's population is also married, giving it one of the highest

rates among the 100 largest cities examined. This underlying potential for friendship, coupled with a high number of recreational options also supports an active social life. Combined with access to housing, career building, low fuels costs, and an average income of \$100,000 for those most likely to marry (age 25-44), Plano offers a good balance for those starting a marriage, according to the

See PLANO, Page 12

## RIOT, from Page 8

History is often spoken of as though it were a thing exclusively of the past, yet the more insidious aspects of our historical past have a way of sprouting when it is least wanted. It could be easily argued that the anti-Black political climate that existed in Houston, Texas (1917) in many ways exists in today's political climate.

Hadley, who is from New York but spends much of his time traversing the nation, says, "I see it pretty much the same across the country...The agenda is to suppress (Black freedoms). It's going to be done any kind of way." Hadley's fear is that despite the efforts of members of the panel—and

other champions of civil rights—"It's (social injustice) not going to change."

The meteorological climate in Houston on August 23, 1917, the night of the clash, the temperature was near one hundred degrees, and it was pouring rain—but the climate that allowed this travesty of justice to exist back then is not so different than the social climate that presents itself more and more today.

The ire of Pastor Tatum was moving as he stood in agreement with Hadley as he compared at least two incidents in Fort Worth in 2016 and 2017 where police were called to a crime scene and innocent Black

women were "manhandled" by police, because police have "complete disregard for Black women." In 1917, the racial skirmish was initiated when Houston police abused a blameless Black woman.

"When that soldier saw the police manhandle that woman, he had to interject himself regardless of the consequences," Pastor Tatum vehemently stated. He contends that today there is a shortage of Black men that have the "heart" to make a stand regardless of the consequences.

"The courage of that soldier to lay it all on the line is the reason we are here today."

The ultimate point to be considered is: When does

one man's inalienable rights end and another man's inalienable rights begin?

The answer is all too often as simple as Black and white.

## FLASH, from Page 4

from further damage. At low oxygen levels, radiation induces fewer harmful modifications to proteins.

Using X-ray footprinting mass spectrometry to map specific protein modifications in cells under varying irradiation dose rates, the team found that oxygen is consumed quickly during treatment.

"We also found that high dose rate irradiation al-

ters proteins less than low dose rate irradiation. This was counterintuitive, but matched the FLASH effect on healthy tissues," Ralston said.

Both results support the "oxygen depletion effect" and lay the groundwork for future research using the X-ray footprinting method. With more mechanistic insights gained into FLASH, tailored dosage rates and

treatment plans could be developed for each cancer type or patient.

"FLASH has generated huge interest in recent years and has been described as a breakthrough in radiation oncology," said Ralston. "If the current clinical trials in humans hold up, then it might become the new standard of care for cancer treatment. It would mean that cancerous tumors could be treated faster and with far fewer side effects."

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# Bidenomics grows economy from middle out and bottom up—not top down

WASHINGTON -- Last week, as President Biden outlined “Bidenomics,” his vision for growing the economy from the middle-out and bottom-up, statewide leaders touted the effects of the president’s vision for growing our economy.

As these leaders noted, President Biden took office with a theory and a plan to move from trickle-down economics to Bidenomics, and the plan is working. The U.S. has since seen the strongest growth since the pandemic of any leading economy, over 13 million jobs, including nearly 800,000 manufacturing jobs, and historically low unemployment.

This record contrasts with Republican plans to cut taxes for high-income earners, place American jobs overseas, and undermine the nation’s global competitiveness.

President Biden signed three major pieces of legislation to invest in infrastructure, to bring advanced manufacturing plans back to the United States, and

to reduce the costs facing working families, said Sen. Chris Coons, on CNN’s “Inside Politics.”

President Biden has long held beliefs that building our economy from the bottom up and the middle out, focusing on strengthening the middle class, and bringing back strong manufacturing jobs is the best way for us to rebuild our economy, to strengthen our society, and to be competitive globally.”

The approach produces better results for working families, compared to the Republican trickle-down approach that relies on tax cuts for the very wealthy, explained Sen. Coons.

On “CBS Chicago,” Lt. Gov Stratton said, “[Bidenomics] is making sure that we rebuild our roads and bridges but also create jobs.” In Chicago, that has meant hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and some that don’t even require a college degree.

On “CBS Kalamazoo,” Lt. Gov. Gilchrist explained, the economic progress we’ve made since

Covid is a result of good policy, good execution and a great investment. His investments in people and infrastructure, like internet access, changes lives, changes careers, and improves health outcomes, he said. “That’s what Bidenomics is about – giving people a chance, building the economy from the bottom up and middle out.”

On MSNBC’s “Andrea Mitchell Reports,” Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado said: “It’s important for folks to understand that what ultimate-

ly this is about is making sure rather than focusing on trickle-down economics –where we’re hoping that if we give big tax breaks to the super rich and wealthy and big corporations, somehow it will make its way down to everyday Americans.”

He explained that tax cuts proposed by Trump added \$2 trillion to our deficit, with the great majority benefiting only the top one percent. Over time, the approach has failed and has proven to be flawed, he said.

## PLANO, from Page 11

analysis.

Dr. Bonnie Eaker Weil, relationship and marriage counselor and author of “Make Up, Don’t Break Up” suggests a place should offer enough opportunities to allow a couple to balance shared experiences with individual space--to participate or chill, depending on their preference. Cities that help marriages last encourage shared activities and new experiences--adventure, novelty, excitement, and nature, said Dr. Eaker Weil.

In fact, a city may

strengthen compatibility by encouraging new experiences, she said. Therefore, a spouse should be open to a partner’s suggestions even if the activities are not typically their style. This can build compatibility, even if the couple is not initially very compatible, she said.

This analysis was done by StorageCafe, an online platform that provides storage unit listings across the nation. For more info visit <https://www.storagecafe.com/blog/best-cities-for-newlyweds/>.

## FINANCE, from Page 7

“I am excited to have the opportunity to join the Richardson team and it’s proven staff of leading financial professionals” said Cothran. “Richardson is recognized as a leader in fiscal management and transparency and it is an honor to continue my service with the community.”

Cothran started her career in government finance in 1987 as an accountant with the City of McKinney. She transitioned to educational financial services in 1993 when she accepted the position of assistant director of accounting with Collin College, where she served until 2001, leaving as its director of accounting and financial reporting. She has served with the City of Frisco since 2002, starting

first as assistant director of finance, was then promoted to director of financial services in 2007, and has served as chief financial officer since 2020.

Cothran holds a Master of Accountancy degree from Rutgers University, specializing in governmental accounting. She also earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Business Management from the University of Texas at Dallas. She also possesses certifications as a Certified College Business Manager from the University of Kentucky and as a Certified Government Finance Officer from the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT).



### McKinney Housing Authority Amendment to the 2023 ANNUAL PLAN & SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year. Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2023 fiscal year. Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

#### Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney PLAN ANNUAL MODIFICADO 2023 & ENMIENDA SIGNIFICATIVA AL PLAN DE CINCO AÑOS

#### REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2023.

Se alienta a los residentes, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones.

Tuesday June 27, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday July 25, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday August 22, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed Amended ANNUAL Plan and Significant Amendment to the Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or [info@mckinneyha.org](mailto:info@mckinneyha.org). The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.



# Allred encourages Texas cities and nonprofits to apply for federal solar grants

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) today encouraged cities and nonprofits in Texas to apply for \$7 billion in grants to help increase access to low-cost solar energy for low-income households. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All grant program was passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act last Congress, which included the largest-ever investment to fight the climate crisis in history.

"Legislation we worked to pass last Congress is already delivering for Texas, and if we work together, we can ensure that we maxi-

mize federal investment and that all our communities can benefit from low-cost clean energy options like solar power," said Allred. "Too often, some communities have been locked out of clean energy options, but this grant helps level the playing field, and I encourage our cities and nonprofits to take advantage of this competitive grant."

Allred recently applauded news that because of the solar incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act, Canadian Solar would build a manufacturing facility in Mesquite. The plant will create 1,500 jobs and will

produce as many as 20,000 solar panels a day. Importantly, this project would not be possible without the financial incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to bolster solar energy manufacturing and production.

"Texas is already a leader in wind energy, and this manufacturing plant will help us take the lead in solar production while creating 1,500 jobs along the way," said Allred. "The Inflation Reduction Act was designed to incentivize projects just like this, and I am proud that Canadian Solar chose Mesquite to build this facil-

ity. Texas has the best workers, and we are ready to lead the next generation of solar manufacturing."

This will be Canadian Solar's first United States manufacturing facility and follows the placement of its development arm, Recurrent Energy, in Austin in 2021.

According to Bloomberg, there has been a manufacturing boom in the United States after the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which Allred supported. All have various incentives to bolster

high-tech and clean energy manufacturing.

The deadline to apply to this competitive grant competition is September 26, 2023. Eligible applicants for Solar for All grants include states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and eligible nonprofit recipients. Coalitions, led by an eligible lead applicant are also eligible to apply. Additional details on eligibility can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The Environmental Protection Agency intends to make up to 60 awards under this competition. The

agency anticipates issuing awards of varying amounts, calibrated to the number of households the applicant intends the program to serve. Applicants for all three award options can apply for a small-sized program (\$25 - \$100 million), a medium-sized program (\$100 - \$250 million), or a large-sized program (\$250 - \$400 million). Applicants to Solar for All can submit separate applications to one or multiple of the three options.

EPA has published the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this competitive grant competition on grants.gov.

## CLOTILDA, from Page 5

scientifically verified to be the Clotilda. The exhibition is installed at the Africatown Heritage House, a site newly constructed by the Mobile County Commission and the City of Mobile.

Jessica Fairley. The manager of the facility, Jessica Fairley, joins a growing group of Mobilians who are working hard to share the stories of the Clotilda, its survivors and the Africatown community as a whole. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the site, ensuring that it fulfills its goal of honoring the past while also focusing on the future of Africatown.

Fairly grew up nearby, attended public schools with students from Africatown, and became fully invested in the family stories of one of her close friends, who is a descendant of the 110. Fairley says she's a storyteller at heart, and this job truly allows her to tap into that passion while she does something for the greater good. "This is not my story," she says. "This is my friend's story. Now Africatown Heritage House is the home of that story ... and we're ready to share it with the whole world."

"Imagine if people come from all over the world just to hear this story," Fairley says. "I want Africatown

Heritage House to be the Plymouth Rock for Black people. I want people from all over the world to be able to come here, place their hands on the glass (which will encase remnants of the Clotilda) and connect with their ancestors." "That's going to give them an experience that they've never had before and never knew they could have," Fairley continues.

"Africatown Heritage House is a place of hope and pride. You'll come in and see what these people were able to do after they were taken away from their homes and put in a place unknown to them. I don't know what my ancestors went through, but knowing what the survivors of the Clotilda went through gives me a piece of my story," she said.

Tiffany Pogue. Communications intern, Tiffany Pogue, felt a calling to help the Africatown community. Pogue is the descendant of Clotilda survivor Kupollee (Pollee Allen) and fellow Africatown founder Lucy Allen, her third-great-grandparents. Pogue is working with the public relations partnership forged by the Mobile County Commission, History Museum of Mobile and Visit Mobile, and will be helping to share the stories of the descendants and

Africatown with journalists around the world.

"I build on the legacy of my ancestors to guide me through life," Pogue says, "So it's a privilege to be in this role and use my unique voice and perspectives to uplift their history and help steer our narrative."

Pogue and the other descendants were welcomed

to a special, private visit to "Clotilda: The Exhibition" at Africatown Heritage House prior to its grand opening to the public.

Africatown Heritage House opened to the public on July 8. It will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibition will have limited capacity, so tickets

will be sold in time-block increments and should be purchased in advance at [www.clotilda.com](http://www.clotilda.com).

To learn more about the team from the History Mu-

seum of Mobile, which has spent the past few years researching, curating and constructing Clotilda: The Exhibition, please visit [clotilda.com](http://clotilda.com).



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# Have Giggle Will Laugh

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I have many problems in my life. I have yet to recognize all of my problems, but I'm sure I will soon.

That's why it's so great to be married to someone like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. There is no problem she cannot fix, and I have many examples to prove it.

There is one problem she hasn't been able to fix. That is, I laugh too much. At least, according to her.

If something happens or someone says something, I will start to giggle, and I know that in a short time, I will be laughing. I know how to laugh better than anybody I know. Just ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Through the years, I have tried to moderate it. I don't want to laugh at everything even though there is a giggle inside of me. Most people don't think everything is funny, while I, on the other side, can't think of anything that isn't funny.

Someone may tell me something or say something unwittingly, and I be-



Brian Lundquist / Unsplash

gin to giggle. I know when that starts I have no control over my giggle-itis. The only cure I have found for giggle-itis is laughter.

Someone may be telling a very serious story about their life, and I hear it wrong and think they are saying something altogether different, and it kicks in my giggle-itis.

It wouldn't be so bad if I could control it when it happens, but as history has proven, I cannot.

I do try to keep some things serious. I must confess, however, that changes from day to day. What is serious today may not be serious tomorrow, and I am the last one to know how to control that.

I've often discussed this

with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and she has tried to counsel me in this area on how to control my laughter.

I try to explain to her that it is not so much the laughter as it is the giggle. If I could control my giggles, I wouldn't have any problem with laughter. She doesn't get it and laughs at me.

You must agree, there are many things in this world that are funny. And I do not believe we should overlook or ignore those situations.

Last week I was standing in line at the post office, and at the counter was a very nice older lady. She was paying for some postage and gave the cashier a \$50 bill. Then the cashier, preparing to give her mon-

ey back, said something strange. He said, "Mam, what denomination would you like?"

I hadn't heard that in a long time and was anxious to hear how the lady would respond.

She looked at the cashier with a very serious look and said, "Sir, I'm a Baptist, so give it to me in Baptist denomination."

Little did I know she was not joking, but I laughed at her, trying to conceal it.

The cashier stared at her, not knowing what to do. I'm not sure what mone he gave her because I was laughing too much on the inside.

It's so hard for me to laugh on the inside and keep it from getting on the outside. What is inside eventually comes outside. I was laughing about that for the rest of the day. And still, when I think of it, I chuckle on the inside.

Just the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came and informed me that she would be gone for the day, thrift store shopping with her daughters. Looking at me, she seriously said, "Can

you get your own lunch today while I'm gone?"

That tripped the giggle button inside for some reason, and my giggle-itis had kicked in.

Looking at her while giggling, I said, "Don't worry. I'll clean the refrigerator out by the time you get home."

Then I started laughing almost uncontrollably. She, on the other hand, looked at me with her infamous scowl and said, without laughing, "I don't think so."

I could not stop laughing as she walked out the front door. Several hours later, I was still laughing, and went and looked in the refrigerator to see how much work I had on hand.

When I opened the refrigerator door, I immediately stopped laughing. There at the front was a bowl of broccoli. I know she did that on purpose, and it cured my giggle-itis for a moment. I had to devise a plan for that broccoli to make me laugh and her scowl. Now the giggle-itis is beginning to turn on.

I think a bowl of Apple Fritters would be an excellent replacement. This is

one of the few items that will make the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage scowl. To see that scowl will be worth all I can offer at this time.

Just the thought of that began a giggle inside of me. Thinking more of this it developed into laughter. I just can't wait to get even.

While I was laughing, I thought of one my favorite Bible verses. "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast" (Proverbs 15:15).

When I think of broccoli I have evil feelings, but the Apple Fritter thought brings a lot of merriment to me.

Then I remembered Proverbs 17:22. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

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

## POET, from Page 5

ents to their businesses and campuses...I truly feel like I have succeeded in doing this."

The Dallas Poet Laureate's duties include collecting literary works that commemorate Dallas; organizing literary workshops, classes and events at libraries and other sites; working with the Express Yourself! Youth Poetry Competition; and other efforts to excite discussion,

exchange and participation in poetry, engaging readers in the culture of the written and spoken word in Dallas. In exchange, the Poet Laureate will receive a \$20,000 honorarium, and Deep Vellum will publish a collection of their work.

Interested poets must apply online by Dec.15. The poet laureate will be appointed in April 2024.

For complete guidelines and to apply, visit [www.dallaslibrary.org/poetry](http://www.dallaslibrary.org/poetry)

[dallaslibrary.org/poetry](http://dallaslibrary.org/poetry)

Dallas Public Library, the Office of Arts & Culture and Deep Vellum launched the new poet laureate program in June 2021 to recognize exemplary poetry and the poet's role in sharing poetry with the greater community. The program is funded by the Friends of Dallas Public Library, Inc, the Joe M. and Doris R. Dealey Family Foundation, Office of Arts & Culture and Deep Vellum.

## MATH, from Page 6

along with scientific procedures to assess their effectiveness. This becomes an "urgent task" to undertake in the coming years. Consequently, the current investigation serves as the founda-

tion for their next project.

Dr. Balladares concludes by suggesting that future studies should explore the effects of these games on other cognitive and developmental skills. The de-

velopment and assessment of board games for educational purposes present an intriguing area of exploration, given the complexity of games and the need to create more effective and engaging educational games.

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# What to Do When You Feel Disheartened



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He (Jesus) went out, and departed unto a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35.*

With the dreadful state of our country, Black men are being killed by bad policemen and nothing is being done about it.

Two Black men killed eight officers and injured others because of injustices in our society, our economy, the cost-of-living ever increasing, abuses and stress at home and in the work-place.

Sickness and death among us and some individuals can't find a job. Sin is the cause of all of this. Yes, there are plenty of people that can feel dishearten or down-in-the



dumps.

However, think about this, what happens when your car is getting close to running out of gas? You look for a gas station to get the car refueled. It doesn't matter the price of the gas.

You may even complain about the high price of the fuel (I have, at times; but, some good advice from my late pastor, Elder Philip White, thank God that you have money to buy the gas); eventually you will get gas or your car will stop running!

When most people are hungry, they eat; when they

are thirsty, they drink some liquid (water, soda, juice, etc.); when they are sick they see a doctor; and when they feel pain, they take aspirins or other medications.

As Believers in Christ and what He did at the cross, when we feel that we are spiritually drained, we refuel our spiritual lives by praying to our Heavenly Father.

When Jesus was on earth, He was fully spirit and human. Everything He did was based upon receiving specific directions or instructions and power from His Father to do them.

At the time He was not operating as God, but as a human with the same limitations that humans have.

Jesus knew one of the key ways to refuel His mind, body and spirit was by spending time in prayer to His Heavenly Father. Jesus is our example, our role model.

No one had a schedule as demanding as Jesus. He healed the sick; delivered people from demons. He traveled from town to town, often walking many miles between towns and cities.

He spent a lot of time with people. His body and His spirit became fatigued. It was draining, I am positive, to minister for extended periods of time.

Praying is a critical discipline for every follower of Jesus if we expect to have power and victory in our Christian walk.

Each believer need to find a solitary place to focus upon the Lord, His Word and His input for our

lives on a daily basis.

If constant praying is not a part of your daily experience, why not start now (today or early tomorrow morning) with a few minutes of focused time of reading and praying.

You will be encouraged and inspired with the new spiritual focus you will have by making this a priority in your life.

If you find that difficulty to do, ask God to help you have a servant spirit. First begin by thanking Him for all that He does in your life and all that He has given you.

Then ask Him to help you to become a faithful steward of what He has entrusted you with. Ask God for grace and strength to walk through your trials and tests victoriously so that you may prove that you are a faithful servant and a godly witness for Him.

Go to the Bible to meet Christ. Remember, "Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence. —St. Augustine of Hippo.

*(Editor's note: This column originally ran in July 2016.)*

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