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A commemoration of the March on Washington calls for a rededication to the continued struggle

On the anniversary of the iconic 1963 March on Washington, civil rights leaders and a coalition of allies convened at the historic gathering site to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and advocate for a renewed commitment to the struggle for social justice. The event, convened by the Kings' Drum Major Institute and the National Action Network, aimed to rekindle the spirit of the original march, which played an important role in advancing civil rights and voting rights.

Roughly 250,000 marched on August 28, 1963 at the original March on Washington, a cornerstone of the civil rights movement. Its influence paved the way for legislative milestones, including the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

More recently, erosion of voting rights, Supreme Court rulings impacting affirmative action and abortion rights, and the rise of hate and violence against marginalized communities, punctuates the need for a renewed commitment to the cause so important to Dr. King.

Dr. King's eldest son, Martin Luther King III, and his sister Bernice King, visited their father's monument in Washington on the eve of the event. Bernice King shared



Demonstrators during the March on Washington rest with their feet in the reflecting pool on August 28, 1963. (Original black and white, Warren K. Leffler / Unsplash)

her reflections, stating, "I see a man still standing in authority and saying, 'We've still got to get this right.'"

Addressing the urgency of the occasion, King III emphasized, "This is not a traditional commemoration. This really is a rededication." Said his wife, Andrea Waters King, "We are here to liberate the soul of the nation, the soul of democracy from those forces who want to have us all go backwards and perish rather than go forward as sisters and brothers," she stated. "We will never betray those who marched for us, fought for us, lived for us, died for us. We are the children and grandchildren of their struggles, and we

will be worthy of their sacrifices."

Among the featured speakers was Ambassador Andrew Young, a close adviser to Dr. King during the original march and a key figure in the civil rights movement. Leaders from the NAACP and the National Urban League delivered impactful remarks also spoke. Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York also spoke during the event.

"We're here today to fight for voting rights," urged Jeffries, the first Black congressperson to lead a major political party in Congress.

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Celebrating the union difference

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People In The News ...



Erica P. Loewe



D'Angelo Proctor

NDG Quote of the Week: "Have a vision of excellence, a dream of success, and work like hell."
—Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook

Erica P. Loewe

Erica P. Loewe, a trusted member of the Biden-Harris administration who has championed the Black Press and opened doors for many at the White House, is moving to a new role at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Loewe, who managed the White House's media and communications as Director of African American media, confirmed to the GRIO's April Ryan that she'll now take on the role as special assistant to the president and chief of staff for the White House Office of Public Engagement.



Loewe becomes the latest Black woman to hold a senior position in the administration.

"I didn't necessarily come from a life of privilege," Loewe told Ryan.

"I grew up in Liberty City, Florida, where the median income is around \$30,000."

She told Ryan that her typical day is filled with countless planned and unplanned projects. "You go to sleep reading the news, and you wake up reading the news," Loewe stated.

Ryan noted that Loewe's rise through the ranks of Washington, D.C. politics stands as a testament to her sheer determination and navigation of the political landscape without relying on any special privileges or connections.

Her initial foray into politics took shape as a White

House intern, a role that laid the foundation for her subsequent ascent.

Before her tenure at the Biden-Harris White House, Loewe served as the deputy communications director for former House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, representing South Carolina.

Her involvement extended to the tumultuous events of Jan. 6, 2021, when Loewe, along with fellow colleagues, found themselves barricading doors in the face of pro-Trump insurrectionists during the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Loewe's dedication and

commitment to her work are evident in her relentless schedule, where the boundaries between professional and personal life often blur.

Her role as a public servant is deeply rooted in her passion for advancing the interests of Black Americans, ensuring their connection to the highest echelons of power in what's famously known as "The People's House."

Drawing from her own experiences, she understands the rarity of individuals from her background reaching the White House and occupying spaces that have historically been ex-

clusive.

Loewe's intimate understanding of Black America makes her uniquely positioned to address issues that concern these communities.

"A lot of the people that I grew up with don't end up in the White House and are not expected to end up in rooms that I have been blessed to end up in," Loewe acknowledged in her interview with Ryan.

Anita Dunn, assistant to the president and senior advisor to Biden, commended Loewe for her pivotal role

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D'Angelo Proctor

D'Angela Proctor is the Founder of Undaunted Content, a minority and women's production company and certified consulting firm aimed at empowering diverse voices in entertainment.

She has executive produced a number of films, and she recently also directed "Keyshia Cole: This is My Story."

Undaunted Content is currently working on a host of projects, including collaborations with Netflix, Lifetime, and Hallmark. She is the former CEO of Justin Baldoni's



Wayfarer Entertainment, Head of Production and Business Development at Code Black, a Lionsgate Company, and Head of Original Programming and Production at TV One. Proctor also consulted for

such clients as Ava DuVernay's Array Filmworks, Hulu, Kendrick Sampson's BLD PWR, a confidential production company, and SPAC.

Proctor is a recipient of several industry awards, including seven NAACP Image Awards, a GLAAD Award, and NAMIC Vision Awards.

Before becoming a network executive, Proctor was a film and television production veteran, having co-owned and operated Strange Fruit Media for 15 years. In this capacity, among many independent projects, she served as an executive producer

and creative consultant to BET at the helm of multiple projects, including NAACP Image Award winner "Sunday Best."

Before entering the media business, the Houston, Texas native practiced labor and employment defense law at Reed, Smith,

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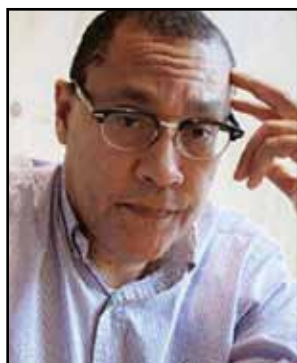
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James E. Cherry

James E. Cherry's latest novel, "Edge of the Wind," from Stephen F Austin University Press, centers around protagonist Alexander van der Pool, a 25-year-old Black man who is off his medication and hearing voices. The primary voice he hears is that of his alter ego, Tobi.

Alex has been writing poetry and wants to find out if it is any good. He visits a literature class at a local college to have it evaluated, and when they try to put him out, he pulls a gun and takes the class hostage.

This is what fiction writer Valerie Martin has to say about "Edge of the Wind."



"In this touching and wonderful novel, Cherry follows Flannery O'Connor's surprising dictum and literally holds a gun to his characters' heads. Their earnest and honest engagement in the moral confrontation that follows will tell you everything you need to know about race in Amer-

ica."

Cherry is the author of three volumes of poetry, a collection of short fiction, and two novels. He has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Texas at El Paso. His work has been nominated for an NAACP Image Award, a Lillian Smith Book Award, and a Next Generation Indie Book Award.

When "Edge of the Wind" was first published in 2016, it was a finalist for Foreword Reviews Book of the Year for Fiction. Copies of the reissue are available now wherever books are sold. Cherry, who resides in Tennessee, is available for readings and signings. Visit him at JamesECherry.com.



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Celebrating the union difference and building tomorrow's public service workforce

By Lee Saunders
President, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

As we prepare to celebrate Labor Day, it's as exciting a time as any in recent memory to be a part of a union. Working people are seeing what the union difference is all about, and they want to be a part of it.

Unions are overwhelmingly popular as the newest Gallup poll on attitudes toward labor unions shows.

Across the country, there is a bold surge of worker activism, as more people raise their voice on the job and claim their seat at the table. Workers are organizing with renewed vigor and winning some of our best contracts in decades. In the cultural sector, for example, 6,000 workers at museums, libraries, zoos and other cultural institutions have joined AFSCME since 2019. Municipal workers in New Orleans – a part of the country that hasn't historically been labor-friendly – won collective bargaining rights this summer.

In city after city, we are

seeing that same energy and enthusiasm during local job fairs that AFSCME is sponsoring as part of "Staff the Front Lines" – our new initiative to recruit qualified people for vacancies in public service. Job seekers are flocking to these hiring events in droves – nearly 200 people showed up in Philadelphia on a recent Monday afternoon.

They have heard our message that public service jobs are good jobs that can support a family and provide a career path. These are very often union jobs that come with strong protections, plus a unique sense of solidarity and fellowship with your co-workers. You get excellent benefits, including a pension so you can one day retire with dignity. These are also jobs with a purpose that allow you to make a difference in the lives of your neighbors.

Our strategy is working. After a huge drop in public sector employment during the pandemic, we are seeing a bounce back, especially in places where we enjoy strong partnerships with employers. Those best-in-decades contracts

we're negotiating are helping retain valued public service workers. And many employers are making steady progress bringing in new people who want to do work that strengthens their communities, while enjoying the rights and freedoms of union membership. Nationwide, July was the 16th consecutive month of growth in state and local government jobs, with a total of 315,000 added since the beginning of this year.

But there are still many positions to fill, and so we are casting a wide net. In many places, we are doing grassroots outreach to young people, to communities of color and to populations that are underrepresented in these jobs. That means, for example, working with faith leaders, asking them to spread the word in their churches and mosques that public service employers are looking for new talent – for nurses, corrections officers, sanitation workers, school bus drivers and more. We will do what it takes, because it's critical that the public service workforce look like our communities.

Diversity in the public service has a rich history. Jobs in state and local government have been an economic lifeline for generations of Black people, especially when other doors of opportunity were slammed shut. This is my family's story, so this is personal for me. My father drove a city bus in Cleveland, Ohio – a good union job that gave us some modest security and stability. We weren't living on Easy Street for sure, but there was food on the table for dinner and a roof over my head at night.

We want to give more people of all races that chance – the chance to be one of the everyday heroes of public service, the chance to be a part of something bigger than yourself by joining a union.

This Labor Day, we honor the sacrifice of all working people. And we affirm that life is better in a union. In the months and years to come, through "Staff the Front Lines" and other campaigns, we will keep fighting to help more people discover the union difference.

Fed's goal to cut inflation to 2% risks recession

SAN DIEGO (News-wire) — U.S. inflation has come down significantly from nearly 9% to 3%, and unemployment continues to stay low. Yet, it will be challenging for the Federal Reserve to reduce inflation to its target of 2% without significantly raising the unemployment rate and possibly sinking the U.S. into a recession, according to a new working paper from the University of California of San Diego's Rady School of Management.

The paper utilizes one of the largest data sets studied thus far to understand

the relationship between unemployment and inflation characterized through the Phillips Curve. The theory establishes high inflation as the result of low unemployment, which is the foundation for much of macroeconomics. The theory explains that high employment has a stimulating impact on inflation because tighter labor markets, are associated with higher wage pressure, which, in turn, leads firms, with higher costs, to raise their prices.

In public statements, Fed chairman Jerome Powell

has expressed validity of the Phillips Curve. Yet, prior empirical research suggests there is no reliable and stable relationship between unemployment rates and inflation for the U.S. economy as a whole. The long and variable lags, in which interest rates affect the labor market, also make the Fed's job more difficult and uncertain.

However, the researchers' comprehensive analysis of historical data covering U.S. cities, states, and industries, and a large set of European countries, allowed them to decipher an

established pattern in the Phillips Curve, which links "hot" labor markets to high inflation. According to the authors, in the current U.S. economy, the labor market is behind about half of the rise in inflation. The other half can be attributed to special pandemic related supply factors.

"While there is optimism that the Fed's efforts tackling inflation by raising interest rates can achieve a 'soft landing,' the historical analysis we have undertaken suggests that there is

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Short bursts of activity daily linked to reduced cancer risk

(Newswise) -- Research published in JAMA Oncology recently linked short bursts of daily activity to reduced risk of cancer. The study was led by the University of Sydney, Australia, in collaboration with other major institutions, including Loughborough University (Professor Lauren Sherar).

The group used data from wearable devices to track the daily activity of over 22,000 'non-exercisers'. Researchers then followed the group's clinical health records for close to seven years to monitor for cancer. As few as four to five minutes of vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity or 'VILPA' was associated with a substantially lower cancer risk compared to those who undertook no VILPA.

Vigorous Intermittent Lifestyle Physical Activity, or VILPA for short, was coined by researchers at the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre to describe the very short bursts of activity—around one minute each—done with gusto each day. This includes vigorous housework, carrying heavy shopping around the grocery store, bursts of power



As few as four to five minutes of vigorous intermittent activity, like robust housework, carrying heavy grocery shopping, short bursts of power walking or high-energy games played with the kids has been associated with reduced cancer risk. (Boxed Water is Better / Unsplash)

walking and playing high-energy games with the kids.

"VILPA is a bit like applying the principles of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) to your everyday life," said lead author Professor Emmanouil Stamatakis of the Charles Perkins Centre.

He said adults who don't exercise are at increased risk of developing certain cancers like breast, endometrial or colon, but until recently the impact of less structured forms of vigorous physical activity was unable to be measured.

"It's quite remarkable to see that upping the intensity of daily tasks for as little as four to five minutes a day, done in short bursts of around one minute each,

is linked to an overall reduction in cancer risk by up to 18 percent, and up to 32 percent for cancer types linked to physical activity."

"We know the majority of middle-aged people don't regularly exercise, which puts them at increased cancer risk, but it's only through the advent of wearable technology like activity trackers that we are able to look at the impact of short bursts of incidental physical activity done as part of daily living," said first author Professor Stamatakis. "We are just starting to glimpse the potential of wearable technology to track physical activity and understand how unexplored aspects of our lives affect our long-term

health – the potential impact on cancer prevention and a host of other health outcomes is enormous," said Stamatakis.

The study is observational, meaning it isn't designed to directly explore cause and effect. However, the researchers say they are seeing a strong link and refer to previous early-stage trials showing that intermittent vigorous physical activity leads to rapid improvements in cardio-respiratory fitness, which may provide a possible biological explanation for reduced cancer risk. Other likely contributors include physical activity's role in improving insulin sensitivity and chronic inflammation.

The international research team includes investigators from the University of Sydney (Australia), University College London (UK), Harvard Medical School (US), University of Calgary (Canada), Maastricht University (The Netherlands), National Research Centre for the Working Environment (Denmark), The University of East Anglia (UK), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), Loughborough University (UK), and University of

Adger (Norway).

In a study sample of 22,398 people with an average age of 62 who didn't exercise in their leisure time, the researchers found 2356 new cancer events (1084 in physical activity related cancer) over an average follow-up of 6.7 years. A minimum of around 3.5mins of daily VILPA was associated with up to 18 percent reduction in cancer incidence (compared with no VILPA). 4.5 mins of daily VILPA was associated with up to 32 percent reduction in physical activity-related cancer incidence. The steepest gains in cancer risk reduction were seen in people who did small amounts of VILPA compared to those who did none, however, benefits continued with higher levels of daily VILPA, particularly for physical activity-related cancers. Most VILPA (92 percent) occurred in bouts of up to 1min.

The study analyzed the impact of VILPA on overall cancer incidence, as well as for 13 cancer sites associated with physical activity; these include liver, lung, kidney, gastric cardia (a type of stomach cancer),

endometrial, myeloid leukaemia, myeloma, colorectal, head and neck, bladder, breast and esophageal adenocarcinoma (cancer of the oesophagus).

The researchers used data from the UK Biobank Accelerometry Sub Study and only included those who identified as 'non-exercisers' – meaning they self-reported no leisure time exercise and no regular recreational walks. They excluded study participants that could skew the results including due to previous cancer diagnosis or diagnosis within a year of enrolment. Other influences such as age, smoking status, BMI, cardiovascular disease, sleep, diet and hereditary cancer risk were also taken into account.

VILPA was accessed based on the participant's activity levels as measured by wrist accelerometers worn over 7 days at study onset. This is consistent with other wearable studies as physical activity levels remain relatively stable at the population level over adulthood. New cancer events were recorded via cancer registries, and hospitalizations or deaths attributable to cancer.

Black Census project quadruples participation since 2018

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Black Futures Lab announced that it had reached a historic milestone in the Black Census Project survey, which will conclude in October 2023. The most extensive survey of Black people in the United States has gathered nearly 130,000 responses from all 50 states, four times bigger than the 2018 Black Census.

"Going into another presidential campaign season, we know that Black

communities are still being undercounted and under-engaged," said Alicia Garza, Founder and Principal of Black Futures Lab, who began designing the Black Census Project after the 2016 election. "It is critical that we engage Black communities early and often. Every day, policy is made about us without us. "We launched the Black Census to transform that—we take the data from the Black Census and use it to inform a Black agenda that serves as a roadmap for policymakers and politicians on how

to best address the needs of Black communities."

Garza continued, noting that "The Black Census is historic and important—there is still time for you to join us and participate so that your voice can be heard."

The Black Census Project, launched in 2018, engages communities typically under-represented in traditional surveys and policymaking. The Black Census Project is gathering information on the opinions and views of Black people. This includes demograph-

ics and areas such as LGB+ communities, trans communities, incarcerated Black individuals, Black immigrants, and Black people living in rural areas.

"Now more than ever, it is essential that Black trans people are seen, heard, and counted," said Aria Sa'id, Founder Emeritus of the Transgender District. "Given all the attacks on trans rights, we know Black trans folks will be the most impacted. While our rights are being taken away and our communities are being targeted, very few people are

talking to trans people about what we're experiencing, and what support we need to live dignified lives. The Black Census does this and gets information from us about our needs and experiences, and what we want to see for our futures. The experiences of Black trans people matter, not just for us, but for all Black communities."

Once the Black Census closes in October, Black Futures Lab said it would use the survey to design and release the Black Agenda 2024 in early 2024. The

Black Agenda 2024 is a policy roadmap that will inform legislators nationwide of the critical priorities of Black communities across America. The tool will also help activate and involve Black voters before elections. Officials said it would encourage Black communities to participate and use their political power to inform, influence, and impact institutions and decision-makers involved with Black people.

"With the 2024 presiden-

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Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia meets with the minority press

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Police Chief Eddie Garcia called a diversity of community press representatives to a meeting earlier this week. Garcia said the department wants to establish better connections with the community, while gathering ideas from the community and opening up new pathways to communication. The sound of chants could be heard outside Dallas Police Department offices in protest over the recent death of Shaniah Jones.

After acknowledging Jones' family and friends, Chief Garcia said the meeting was set up to discuss issues with diversity and crime reduction.

"Not every area of Dallas has to deal with violent crime," said Garcia, "but



In a meeting at the Dallas Police Department's main offices, Chief Garcia sought to establish better connections with the community. (JBL Asset Management / Dallas Police Department)

our first priority is keeping people from being shot."

Issues discussed that day included staffing and technology, which Garcia brought up with regard to slower-than desired police response times.

We are in the midst of a national staffing crisis for police departments across the country, he explained.

When asked whether the department has the needed funding to support hiring new police to keep up with Dallas' tremendous growth, the Chief responded the City is approaching a new budget year, and he believes the mayor and council will back the department and support any needed growth.

Police departments are the fever reducer, Garcia explained, and not the ones to address the heart of issues that lead to crime.

When asked what the department is doing to improve lower-income neighborhoods, like Fair Park, Garcia pointed out the absence of hope in some places. We want to invest in those areas and help those people to find hope, he said.

Discussing one South Dallas community that is receiving a new Target store, he said the department wants to be a part of that work because we really need that Target to succeed.

Part of our plan is our Focused Deterrent Program. The program was set up to help people who are susceptible to a life of violent crime. The goal is to change behaviors through a combination of deterrence,

incapacitation (arrest), community involvement, and alternatives to violence, this according to the Department's Violent Crime Reduction Plan. One strategy is to clearly communicate to gang members and violent offenders the risks of continued activities, while pointing out available alternatives through social services, education, and job-related services. The support and partnership of social service organizations, including city agencies, non-profits, or community-based leaders and groups, is necessary, according to the plan.

Following other successful models, the Dallas focused deterrence strategy will use "violence interrupters" to help resolve street-level conflicts among violence-prone offenders, spread the retail deter-

rence message, and serve as street-level conduits to social services, the plans notes.

The department recently invited 35 people to a meeting associated with the Focused Deterrent Program. Chief Garcia said 23 people showed up, while 16 of those asked about further involvement.

Chief Garcia said the Dallas Police Department want to help those who need help with drugs, mental health, etc., and it wants a robust set of programs that will help people find hope.

According to the department's plan, longer-term strategies to reduce violence include coordinating with other city agencies to implement a vacant lot "greening" program and vacant/dilapidated building abatement strategy.

As plans for high-speed rail linking Fort Worth, Arlington and Dallas move forward, NCTCOG seeks community input

Plans to link Fort Worth, Arlington and Dallas with high-speed rail are moving ahead, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments wants to hear what potential users of the system think. The formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process of the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study will kick off in September, and NCTCOG is

hosting four open house events to allow the public a chance to learn more about the project.

The first open house is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at NCTCOG's Arlington offices. Subsequent open houses will be hosted at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31 at the Fort Worth Central Station Community Room; 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6 at the Tony Shotwell Life Center in Grand Prai-

rie; and 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center.

The open houses will encourage an open dialogue, similar to meetings held during the first phase of the study in 2021. A short video will discuss the project and presentation boards throughout each venue will explain different high-speed technologies and illustrate the recommended route. The meetings will be

held at different location in the metroplex.

- Aug. 29, 2023, 5-7:30 p.m. at North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington 76011.

- Aug. 31, 2023, 4-7 p.m., Fort Worth Central

Station Community Room at 1001 Jones Street, Fort Worth 76102.

- Sep. 6, 2023, 5-7:30 p.m. at Tony Shotwell Life Center, 2750 Graham Street, Grand Prairie Texas 75050.

- Sep. 7, 2023, 4-7 p.m.

at West Dallas Multipurpose Center, 2828 Fish Trap Road, Dallas 75212

The 12-county metropolitan area currently has a population of 8 million and is expected to add an additional 3 million-plus people by 2045.

DBA hosts online public forum on Fentanyl crisis

The public is invited to a forum titled "The Fentanyl Crisis: A Conversation from the Frontlines," on Wednesday, September 6, Noon, via Zoom.

The program will feature local experts in the fields of law enforcement, health, and city services. The panel will discuss the dangers of fentanyl, why and how children seek it out, how

social media plays a part, what can be done to curtail the problem, and available resources.

Speakers include:

- Paula Blackmon, Dallas City Council

- Philip Huang, MD, MPH, Dallas County Health and Human Services

- Assistant Special Agent in Charge Wade Sparks,

Drug Enforcement Administration

- Peyton Yager, FOX 4 News Dallas-Fort Worth, Moderator

The webinar, sponsored by the Public Forum Committee of the Dallas Bar Association, is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending should Register at <https://buff.ly/3OMQ6jz>.

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The public steps up for Dallas students at Dallas ISD board meeting

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

At the start, it was business as usual as DISD trustees read district reports and gave accolades to teachers and students. School Board Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde assured the public that despite a few now corrected A/C issues, the school year is off to a smooth start. Elizalde reported STAR scores are up last year and announced DISD was named a District of Distinction by Texas Art Education Associates, an honor that only 68 districts achieved out of 1250 districts statewide. DISD's visual arts



A number of community members spoke up for D.I.S.D students at its August 24 meeting. (Lori Lee / NDG)

program ranks in the top 5% in Texas, said Elizalde, and teacher vacancies are at a low this year, with only 70 vacant positions presently.

The meeting came alive when an audience of pas-

sionate community members stepped up to speak—some teachers, some parents, others with no children -- just raising their voices for Dallas children. All had tried to work a little

magic for the children. With 86% of DISD students economically disadvantaged, many do, in fact, need that help.

Citing studies showing students can have positive outcomes through intervention in districts with lower socioeconomic status, Shondria McDonald urged the board to restore parent/community engagement meetings and district resources.

District 6 Trustee Joyce Foreman reminded us what hard work and dedication can do, recalling how Carter High's own Sha'Carri Richardson had helped Carter win championships in both

2017 and 2018. Now, setting a new world record in Budapest, Richardson never gave up, and she sets an example for us all, she said.

Recent Star reports offer hope for Dallas students. Superintendent Elizalde reported scores have rebounded since pandemic downturns, and DISD students are now scoring higher than the state and higher than many suburban and charter schools.

However, community advocate Robert Ceccarelli pointed out that Dallas scores are not as high as other large Texas cities, including Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.

Further, a number of presenters noted systemic inequities and deficiencies in some districts. Stephen Poole called out declines at Carter following departure of a former principal, explaining that children of educators no longer attend Carter High. This, due to parent/student fears of assigned gatekeepers, he said. DISD is not doing right by children in certain parts of town, said Poole. He cited bureaucracy and politics as why.

Another district criticized was Madison High when Robert Ceccarelli discussed

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For whom the school bells toll: new psychological research for a new academic year

(Newswise) — Tens of millions of students are filing back into classrooms, bringing with them a long list of hopes and concerns related to the academic year ahead. Besides the inevitable adjusting to new social and learning routines, students, as well as their families, teachers, and school administrators this year will be faced with challenges related to early start times, new peer groups, and pandemic-related learning losses, among other concerns. This collection of research published in the journals of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) in 2022 and 2023 may provide some insights.

Ido Davidesco et al., in Psychological Science, wrote that for good and bad alike, the social dynamics between students and teachers can profoundly impact a student's engagement, learning, and well-being. The groups' brain-to-brain synchrony—or lack thereof—might be similarly impactful, this research suggests. During a lecture, Davidesco and colleagues recorded electroencephalography (EEG) data from nine groups—each with four students and a teacher.



Eye for Ebony / Unsplash

They found that students whose brain responses were more similar to those of other students and to their teacher showed better performance in immediate and delayed tests. Moreover, students answered more questions correctly when the questions corresponded to specific lecture segments in which their brain-to-brain synchrony was higher. The findings also highlight the potential benefits of collecting brain data from learners in ecologically valid settings.

Tenelle Porter et al. in Psychological Science, wrote that when teachers provide growth-mindset interventions, their students' real-world grades can improve, this research suggests. Porter and colleagues tested a teacher-delivered

intervention for U.S. adolescents in Grades 6 and 7 (1,996 students and 50 teachers) that was designed to both impart growth-mindset beliefs and create a supportive classroom environment where those beliefs could flourish. The intervention improved the grades of struggling students in the target class by 0.27 standard deviations, or 2.81 grade percentage points. The effects were largest for students whose teachers endorsed fixed mindsets before the intervention.

Cynthia P. May, Lynn Hasher, and Karl Healey, in Perspectives on Psychological Science, wrote that sleep-deprived teenagers aren't the only ones who still feel groggy when the school day starts—and

for good reason. Attention and memory are compromised at off-peak times of the day. According to the synchrony effect, performance in several cognitive areas is optimal when a person's performance times align with their peak circadian arousal (i.e., their chronotype). Circadian rhythms and chronotypes vary across individuals—in morning chronotypes, arousal rises and peaks early in the day, but in evening chronotypes it rises and peaks in the afternoon or early evening—and vary with age (e.g., older adults appear likely to have morning chronotypes). May and colleagues suggest that failure to consider the synchrony effect may be a factor in issues such as school timing, replication difficulties, and assessing intellectual disabilities associated with apparent cognitive declines related to aging.

Sherry Jueyu Wu and Xiqian Cai, in Psychological Science, wrote that the gender-math stereotype refers to the prevailing notion that males are inherently better than females at learning mathematics. Unfortunately, when peers and classmates express

such gendered beliefs, they can actually hurt girls' performance in math, this research suggests. Wu and Cai studied middle-school classes where more classmates reported believing that boys are innately better than girls at learning math. Not only did girls perform worse in math and boys better, but this peer exposure also increased students' likelihood of believing the gender-math stereotype, increased the perceived difficulty of math, and reduced girls' aspirations. The researchers obtained similar effects with college students and showed that the effect was both immediate and long-term.

Faria Sana and Veronica X. Yan in Psychological Science, wrote: Mixing up topics on quizzes might be a cost-effective strategy to promote classroom learning. Across four weeks, students in Grades nine through 12 took a weekly quiz in their science courses. Questions were either blocked by concept (e.g., AAABBBCCC) or interleaved with different concepts (e.g., ABCABCABC). On a final test, taken one month after the final quiz, students performed

better on items that had been on interleaved quizzes than on concepts that had been on blocked quizzes. Moreover, they performed better on concepts that had been quizzed than on concepts that had not, replicating the known benefits of retrieval practice.

Deni Mazrekaj and Kristof De Witte, in Perspectives on Psychological Science, asked just how extensive the impact of pandemic school closures was on children's learning and mental health. Reviewing the relevant literature, Mazrekaj and De Witte found that the scale and length of school closures likely resulted in a substantial deficit in children's learning and a deterioration in children's mental health. Their policy recommendations for ensuring children's learning and psychosocial development in the future include paying more attention to students from marginalized groups, implementing evidence-informed and personality-tailored mental-health, social-and emotional-learning programs in schools, and avoiding generational labels.

AMLI Tree House goes great lengths to create shade for Addison community

AMLI, a leading developer of sustainable communities, visualized a living experience with abundant shared green space as they planned for their AMLI Tree House community. The developer is going to great lengths to accomplish this goal, moving four heritage live oaks to a new Redding Trail Park and Trail extension to be dedicated to the Town of Addison.

This is a great move for the Town of Addison, said Lori Lee, Ph.D. in urban planning and public policy. Established trees are capable of absorbing more pollutants than some young trees, and they provide a larger shade canopy, reducing temperatures to a greater extent, potentially up to 10 degrees. Considering recent hot summers, preserving these established trees acts as a multiplier when it comes to sustainability, she said, both cooling the community and cleaning the air. Further, the shared green space may be considered a more efficient use of land than single-family lots, considering such shared spaces support more people while encouraging them to get to know their neighbors, therefore achieving much more perhaps than private lawns, she said.

As a part of their commitment to a sustainable environment, AMLI has partnered with Houston-



based Environmental Design to use their ArborLift™ technology to move four decades-old live oaks on the site to a new three-acre community park, Redding Trail Park and Trail extension, which AMLI is donating to the Town of Addison. AMLI has worked with the Town of Addison to ensure that the AMLI Tree House project will serve as a gateway and catalyst for the town's Midway South Redevelopment Plan. This collaboration reflects a new level of partnership between cities and developers to work toward sustainability and to create meaningful green spaces.

"Our team has worked alongside AMLI to further plans to extend our trails as a part of Addison's City-Wide Trails Master Plan," said Janna Tidwell, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Addison. "AMLI is helping the Town to meet the needs of residents by providing a green corridor that will connect residents to trails and na-



ture-inspired landscaping."

To enhance the natural feel of the development and to create shade, AMLI has worked to preserve a number of existing trees on the site. The team will also plant over 350 new trees, including high-quality live oaks, chinquapin oaks, and cedar elms, and beautiful ornamental trees, such as Japanese maples. Over half of the new plantings will be allocated to the future Redding Trail Park and Trail extension, while the remainder will be sensitively placed in and around the new multifamily and retail development.

underinvested corridor," explained Taylor Bowen, AMLI Development Company President. "AMLI Tree House is a great example of integrating quality environmental design into a residential community and creating well-curated community enhancements via a significant public-private partnership. We've been proud to walk side-by-side with the Town of Addison and their dedicated staff in crafting the design of the future three-acre Redding Trail Park and Trail extension."

AMLI Tree House's extensive landscaping and environmental plan is part of AMLI's long-standing commitment to creating impactful multifamily communities that prioritize sustainability. Designed for LEED Silver®, this new development will have 370 apartments within its main building, 35 apartments in a

senior-friendly building, 14 rental townhouses, 30 for-sale townhouses, unique live/work residences, and 7,000 square feet of retail.

"AMLI has a cultural commitment to creating environmentally responsible apartment homes like AMLI Tree House," said Erin Hatcher, AMLI's VP of ESG & Sustainability. "We work daily to ensure that our communities use land, water, and energy more efficiently and provide lifestyle amenities that allow residents to live more sustainably."

Commencement of construction for AMLI Tree House will begin in the first quarter of 2024. Pre-leasing is expected to begin during the second quarter of 2025, with initial move-ins following in the subsequent quarter. Completion of construction is estimated during 2026.

CENSUS, from Page 4

tial elections right around the corner, and the first GOP debate kicking off tonight, we know Black votes matter; Black people do too," said Angela Rye, Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies. "To be powerful in politics, Black people must curate, shape, and push our own political agenda—a Black agenda—and the Black Census Project equips us to do that. That is why this project is tremendously important."

According to a news release, over 30,000 Black people nationwide par-

ticipated in the first Black Census Project in 2018. The Black Futures Lab used the results to identify pressing legislative and policy priorities, turning the survey into a national, state, and municipal policy platform to guide 2020 Presidential candidates as they devised strategies to earn the support of Black voters.

In 2022 and 2023, Black Futures Lab collaborated with over 50 Black-led grassroots organizations, more than a dozen national media partners, and Black influencers. The organiza-

tion said it has reached over 129,000 Black people nationwide. Most respondents (64%) are from the South; 14% are from the Midwest, 13% are from the Northeast, and 10% are from the West. Nearly half (40%) of respondents are ages 60+; a quarter are 50–59, 17% are 40–49, 12% are 30–39, 4% are 25–29, and 4% are 18–24. Initial findings show the top three issues for Black people are:

- Low wages that are not enough to sustain a family: 39%
- Gun violence: 32%
- Schools that fail to prepare children adequately: 32%

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Building democracy 60 years after the March on Washington

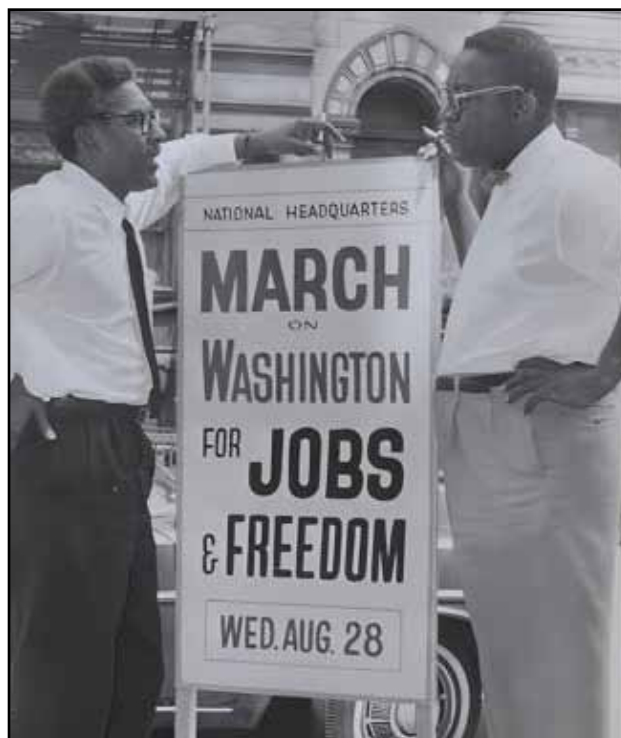
By Tamiaka Atkins

Sixty years ago, more than 200,000 people descended upon the National Mall for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, making a stand for freedom and equality. Black people, women, and poor people had been treated like second-class citizens for too long, and it was time to demand justice.

The March led to unprecedented federal legislation addressing the systemic racism and economic injustices that had plagued Black people through slavery and the Jim Crow era. Within a year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed, followed by the National Voting Rights Act in 1965. Sit-ins, protests, and other demonstrations set the stage for change, but the March on Washington set a new standard for civic engagement and exemplified the impact that could be accomplished when we organize broad coalitions toward a common goal. Those lessons will stand the test of time. The march remains a call to action for social justice advocates to continue the fight against discrimination, voter suppression, police brutality, and wage disparity. It is also a platform to elevate the greater narrative on racial injustice.

Now, as we commemorate August 28, 1963, we understand that while progress has been made, we have so much more work to do. Our democracy is fragile, and we face new threats each day.

Threats against democracy linger around every corner. Over the past five years, in Georgia alone, potential voters have faced a new wave of voter purges, elimination of the use of mail-in/absentee ballots and polling places, reductions in early voting options, efforts to undermine poll workers and legislation that would subject citizens to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for criminal



Sixty years ago, more than 200,000 people descended upon the National Mall for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, making a stand for freedom and equality. Black people, women, and poor people had been treated like second class citizens for too long, and it was time to demand justice. (Photo via NNPA)

investigation of claimed suspicions of voting irregularity.

Recent years have shown just how far some people will go to suppress the will of the people. The needs of real people too often take a backseat to partisan jockeying, rampant misinformation, and wholesale agendas to reverse decades of legal precedent promoting equity. At this moment, we cannot afford to view the March as a thing of the past. The fight for our most basic civil rights never ended. We need urgent action and consistent civic engagement.

Stephen M.R. Covey said, "Change happens at the speed of trust." Rev. Jennifer Bailey added, "relationships are built at the speed of trust, and social change happens at the speed of relationships." Thus, longstanding, systemic, and generational change is built over time by creating meaningful relationships. It's not enough to rally folks for a single election or campaign. You must give people a real reason to believe that their voices and their votes matter. Even more, you must show them how to engage in the demo-

cratic process regularly, beyond election cycles, and remind them that our systems are only as strong as the people who run them. We must hold those elected and appointed officials accountable to the will of the people.

Beyond non-transactional relationships, it's important to center and elevate the voices, values, and leadership of people guiding

this work every day, many of whom are Black women and women of color. The face of civic engagement must reflect the communities being served. We need more brown, black, queer, and differently-abled people as activists, organizers, candidates, policymakers, judges, district attorneys, and lawmakers.

Even as we strive toward greater inclusivity, we must also embrace and elevate the ideals and actions of young people. At the time of the March on Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr. was 34 years old, and Georgia's own senior statesman, John Lewis, was just 23, as a fierce advocate for justice. Young people have

always been at the heart of movements for civil rights and social justice, and real progress requires that we continue to amplify their efforts. Engaging them today means speaking their language and empowering them to engage on their own terms.

See BUILDING, Page 14

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Dallas Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America to hold 2023 awards ceremony

The Dallas Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America presents the 2023 Legends and Torchbearer Awards and Luncheon Saturday, September 16 at noon at the Doubletree by Hilton, 1981 N. Central Expressway in Richardson 75080.

Legends Award recipients include Willy Adams, Grecian Holley, Paul Jackson, Crystal Jordan, Monya Logan, and Jimmie Wyatt with the Linda Mitchell Legends Award going to Ora Foster and Jerry Perry. Torchbearer recipients are Eric Birdine, Wanda Coleman, Reuben Lael, Tramaul

Love, Jermaine Roberts, and Regina Williams.

The event will honor Dallas/Fort Worth musicians, singers, artists, and directors, promoting the gospel ministry to help build the kingdom.

Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased in advance at www.dallaschapterLTawards.rsvpify.com.

Don't miss the 2023 Legends and Torchbearer Awards and Luncheon at the Doubletree by Hilton in Richardson, sponsored by the Dallas Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America.

William White / Unsplash

Film Review: 'The Equalizer 3' thrills on screen

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) "Do you know who I am," says a menacing thug. "I know what you are," says Robert McCall (Denzel Washington). Former government assassin. Current freelance equalizer. A counterbalance to bullies and their behavior.

Sometimes action/crime/thrillers cross the line into the art film world. Director Antoine Fuqua has clearly chosen that path as he meticulously crafts the third installment of a revenge franchise that's garnered \$192M and \$190M for the first and second chapters respectively. No offense, the first two were nothing to look at. However, this endeavor goes for the visuals, which only makes the storybook European setting look more alluring.

The place is an evocative, old-world town on the Amalfi Coast, in Southern Italy. A small village set against the steep Lattari



Denzel Washington in *The Equalizer 3*. (Photo via NNPA)

Mountains, which, from a distance, make the houses and buildings look like toys. The footage's color is undersaturated (Robert Richardson: *Hugo*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) and still looks surprisingly rich. Evocatively highlighting the beautiful environs, from village streets to lux mansion bedrooms, dark allies and homey cafés. Any comparisons to Italian director

Marco Bellocchio's films (*Traitor*) is warranted. This version of his Italy looks the same. The art directors, production designer (Naomi Shohan, *Winter's Tale*), set decorator (Chiara Baldacci) and costume designer (Giovanni Casanuovo) set tone, style, place and lifestyle liked they've created a mural. Italy envelopes you.

In an absolutely riveting beginning, McCall settles a

score with some drug dealers on a farm in Sicily. He convalesces in a small town on the coast. Befriended by Enzo (Remo Girone, *Ford v Ferrari*) a doctor, Gio (Eugenio Mastrandrea) the local Carabinieri (cop), Angelo (Daniele Perone) a fish market owner and the stunningly beautiful, mixed-race café owner

See FILM, Page 11

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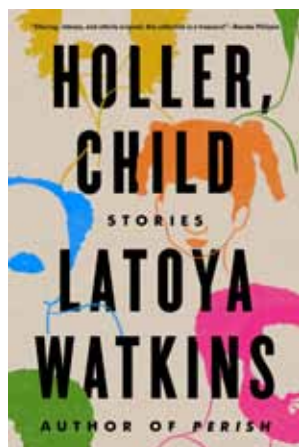
NDG Book Review: 'Holler, Child' is a surprisingly good read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

So why didn't you...?

Your life wasn't random, there was a plan of some kind somewhere. Why didn't you pick this path instead of that other, make this choice a priority, decide in favor of something else? Surely, you didn't simply fall headlong into every opportunity. Now, as in "Holler, Child" by LaToya Watkins, a collection of short stories, you'll always wonder what if...

Ever since her son, Hawk, died, news reporters have been sniffing around Mrs. Hawkins' house, asking questions. She wants to explain why she gave her son away, why he told people he was God's son before



he ended up in Abilene, and why he hurt that little girl. But in "The Mother," lies come easier than the truth.

After Lettie found her husband, Chuck, dead on the floor, her Momma moved in, though Lettie didn't want her there. Momma was never loving, like kids need their Mom-

mas to be. She liked to remind Lettie that Chuck was no good. In "Tipping," Momma'd hurt too many people for too long, but what could Lettie do?

Opal never wanted that dog, but they got the ugly cur for Nate, who'd always wanted an Old English Bulldog. After he had his stroke, though, it seemed like that dog was all he cared for and Opal despised it. In "Moving the Animal," that dog stood for everything wrong.

Clayton had done nothing but cheat on Lotrece for years and she retaliated in so many petty ways that even she began to think it was silly. One day, she might forgive him but until then, it was more fun to

poke him in a dozen little ways, to make him mad and make him feel some sort of way – like wearing lingerie, when he knew darn well that their love life was over. But when she reached for her thong, Lotrece felt the gun in her dresser drawer, the one Clayton said never worked. In the high-tension story, "Sweat," Clayton lied.

Does it seem like you don't have enough time to read a book, with all you've got going on this time of

year? Then you want "Holler, Child," because none of these eleven short stories will take long to read, but they're long on enjoyment.

Using tiny slices of life and cool-as-ice prose, author LaToya Watkins brings readers a series of snap decisions and bad ideas in tales that will keep you guessing. But these are not mystery-like whodunits; instead, they're everyday tales, brilliantly set in a single afternoon or overnight or two, but with enough

back-story inside the set-ups to make you care about each character and to make you have an opinion on what those characters should do. It's like having a ringside seat up next to the people you know and love to gossip about.

This is a book for anyone who likes surprises in their stories, for short-story fans, or for people who are time-crunched now and always. Find "Holler, Child" and enjoy, or you'll always wonder why didn't you...?

FILM, from Page 9

Aminah (Gaia Scodellaro). The American interloper surrounds himself with a new extended family. McCall: "This is where I belong." So, he's particularly enraged when he witnesses a local Mafia family terrorizing his friends. Dr. Enzo: "The Mafia they're like cancer. No cure."

Marco (Andrea Doderro) is the henchman who collects money from and menacingly assaults shop owners. He's a lucky for his brother Vincent (Andrea Scarduzio, Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One), a ruthless, ambitious crimelord involved in international drug trade. McCall casually calls CIA agent Emma Collins (Dakota Fanning), and tips her off. The dealing of narcotics is connected to Jihad money and a bigger scheme worthy of a global law enforcement investigation.

Fans of this action series beware. What you've seen previously doesn't compare. Visually, The Equalizer 3 is stunning, most of the time. Plotwise, the layered, secondary storylines in this crime/thriller go deep enough to resemble a Mario Puzo (The Godfather) book. Add in well-staged and choreographed violence that isn't as artistic as John

Wick: Chapter 4, but arty in its own way. Plus, a lowkey style that feels like Matteo Garrone's 2008 crime/dra Gomora, and it's official. This USA-born franchise feels reinvented. Clearly Fuqua, the producers and production team are hoping viewers like their attention to aesthetics. Their dream may come true.

In the past, Fuqua has displayed graphic violence in all kinds of ways: music video-ish (Replacement Killers); generic (Olympus Has Fallen) and graphically dramatic (Training Day). This time an attention to detail, showing restraint and focusing on captivating images ups his game. The pacing seems so deliberate (editor Conrad Buff, Titanic). The ominous music (Marcelo Zarvos, Flamin' Hot), with heavy dirge-like base and low screeching sounds, cries out like it's warning that death is imminent. Collectively, it all works.

The center of attention is a character setting things right for those who can't do it themselves. A gun-packing, guardian angel with a keen ability to outsmart the most cunning aggressors. That's the persona screenwriter Richard Wenk (Jack Reacher: Never go Back) has adapted from a 1980s

TV series. That's the protagonist Washington has turned into an iconic action film hero. He doesn't yell, he growls. Rarely breaks a sweat and kills with certain grace. Nothing over the top, very studied and poised. Yet so riveting.

The romance with Aminah is winsome because Scodellaro never overplays her hand. Neither does Mastandrea, Girone or Perrone. On the other hand, Doderro as the sociopathic collector of protection money and Scarduzio as his older brother, swing for the rafters. Mean beyond redemption. Unbridled hubris in need of a smackdown. Enough to incur the audience's wrath.

This isn't the Godfather. Nor is Fuqua Martin Scorsese. He is an action genre film director who's dipped his toes into the art film world. Hence, taking the final installment of a generic action series to its ultimate glory. Something more. Something to remember. A postcard from the Amalfi coast where an American interloper tries to clear out the garbage that stinks up the streets.

You know who he is. You know what he is. The Equalizer.

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

BOARD, from Page 6

recent unacceptable treatment of students by Madison's principal, as discussed at DISD's June 2023 board meeting. Ceccarelli encouraged everyone to review the video of that meeting and student Kamoya Howard's discussion of her inappropriate and harsh treatment.

Yolanda Williams also spoke out against the Madison principal, explaining that twenty years ago, Willard had done great things, but in 2023, she should go. Williams argued, DISD is failing its students by keeping her.

It is notable that ten years

ago, when Willard was included on DISD's "non-renewal list," a student walk-out and protests had ensued.

All voices heard at the meeting were not entirely critical. George Rangel thanked the board for reducing test requirements for grades K through 8, noting teachers can now focus on teaching, as opposed to testing. He urged this be implemented for high schoolers as well and called for an end to class size waivers and a reopening of school libraries.

A number of libraries across DISD have been

closed, to be used only as storage or, in some cases, detention centers, Christopher Wilkins explained. As a voracious reader, Wilkins said librarians had changed his life, and he urged that all students should have access to those opportunities. Resentments stem from a lack of equitable treatment, he said.

Others spoke against discontinued programs and altered curriculums. Citing expected gaps in learning, Sierra Tyler called out missing math courses, while Tanesha Bynham complained of no athletic period for girls. She argued that the unequal treatment of girls

and boys constitutes a Title IX violation.

Rosie Kurtz discussed the new Carnegie lesson plans, noting a lack of corresponding supplies and describing them as somewhat restrictive. Changing to the new plans would necessarily require an adjustment period, she warned, explaining issues with the roll-out could impact test scores and affect teacher pay, and she urged the board to consider this.

Brittany Lawrence complained of failures to accommodate those with special needs, noting teacher vacancies, though low compared to previous years, are forcing the most vulnerable

to scramble.

A common and very serious complaint involved high temperatures on school buses, Linda Barrett noting 108 to 110 F temperatures in some cases. Miracle Mallard noted some districts have not received new buses in five years. She and other speakers complained drivers have not been treated fairly.

One driver, Jay Hawkins, had passed out and suffered chest pains on May 5, having no A/C on the bus. He, who had not been rushed to the hospital but merely

treated by an off-duty nurse, acknowledged the nurse for reviving him.

Sheila Walker, while thanking the district for a great first day, explained the tendency for metal vehicles to hold onto heat. She urged students and drivers should receive cold water to help them cool down. Walker went on to say she would never talk about striking, while encouraging others to stand by their districts and stand by their students. The students are our priority, and that's who we are working for, she said.

RISK, from Page 3

a steep trade-off between unemployment and inflation when the economy is running hot as it is now," said Allan Timmermann, co-author of the working paper and distinguished professor of finance at the Rady School. "This means that further reductions in inflation will increasingly come up against tightness in the labor market. If the Fed wants to go the last mile and bring inflation to its 2% target, this is likely to come at the cost of increased unemployment and runs the risk of triggering a recession."

The focus of the analysis in the paper is on understanding how the Phillips Curve has changed over time and identifying possible drivers of such change. The researchers find the traditional Phillips Curve has flattened significantly over time due to events like the integration of China in the world trade system in 2000, which helped keep prices low and increased global productivity.

"In 'normal times,' there is essentially no trade-off between unemployment and inflation," said Timmermann. "However, we also find a strikingly strong trade-off between unemployment and inflation when the labor market - as it is now - is running really

hot with lower-than-normal unemployment."

Wages continue to rise at close to 5%, making it difficult to bring overall inflation to 2%.

Since inflation was so low for many decades, and with spells of inflation as high as it is now mostly limited to the 1970s, large portions of prior data linking labor markets and inflation are considered uninformative in relation to the whole U.S. economy, according to Timmermann and co-authors Jonathan H. Wright of Johns Hopkins University and Simon Smith of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

To squeeze more information out of the data, the researchers looked at variations in unemployment and prices across major metropolitan areas, states and industries within the U.S. as well as across 28 different countries in the European Union during different periods.

Using a panel regression—a statistical method that allows researchers to analyze pooled-cross sections of data, such as employment and price levels in different cities and across different times—Timmermann and co-authors found patterns that help explain the various factors impact-

ing today's economy.

This strong trade-off between inflation and unemployment in hot labor markets like the current one suggests inflation could have been higher longer without the Fed's past and future interest rate rises, which managed to cool down the labor market quite significantly, said Timmermann.

"In other words, so far the Fed has managed a 'soft landing' with significant declines in inflation over the last year or so without increasing unemployment. But bringing down the current inflation rate from 3% to the target of 2% without risking a much weaker labor market with higher unemployment could prove far more difficult."

He added that with wages continuing to rise at close to 5%, it will be very hard to bring overall inflation to 2% considering that salaries are growing at this pace.

Timmermann sees no immediate signs of a recession, but it is something that could occur in the next year or so if the Fed sticks to its commitment of reducing inflation to 2%.

In that case, consumers can expect interest rates to be higher for a longer period, resulting in higher mortgage rates and lower house prices, impacting firms that have to raise cap-

ital by issuing bonds carrying higher interest payments. This will leave them with less money to retain and hire new workers.

To read the full paper "Breaks in the Phillips Curve: Evidence from Panel Data," go to https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4438769.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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USDA accepting applications for Angola Agribusiness Trade Mission

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small will lead the first-ever U.S. agribusiness trade mission to Luanda, Angola on Nov. 28 – Dec. 1. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service is now accepting applications from U.S. exporters who wish to participate in the trade mission.

“When it comes to trade opportunity, Sub-Saharan Africa is both promising and often over-looked, and the USDA trade mission to Angola presents an incredible prospect for U.S. food and agriculture exporters to expand and explore new business opportunities,”

said Torres Small. “Angola is one of the largest markets in Africa, and with imports making up more than half of its food market, Angola is a perfect location for U.S. exporters to introduce more American-made products to African consumers.”

While in Angola, participants will conduct business-to-business meetings with potential buyers, receive in-depth market briefings from FAS and industry trade experts, and participate in site visits and other networking opportunities.

In addition to meeting with importers in Angola, U.S. participants will also meet with buyers from

neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.

With a population of nearly 36 million people, many of whom are middle- and high-income consumers, Angola is looking for high-quality imported products. In 2022, U.S. food and agriculture exports to Angola totaled \$236.8 million, making it the 7 largest African market for U.S. exporters. Consumer-oriented products accounted for more than 99 percent of U.S. agricultural and food exports to Angola in 2022. Angola was the

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MARCH, from Page 1

“We’re here today to fight for civil rights. We’re here today to fight for reproductive rights. We’re here today to fight for workers’ rights,” he said.

Notably absent from the program were several individuals who had worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., such as the Rev. Peter Johnson, a Plaquemine, Louisiana, native and close aide to civil rights giant Andrew Young, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. Despite their significant contributions to the movement, they did not receive invitations to participate in the commemoration, shedding light on the challenge of preserving historical continuity and recognizing all those who played a role.

Chavis was spotted among the crowd giving a hug to an unidentified Jewish man who had singled him out. “We were here 60 years ago, and we were both 15,” the man said to Chavis.

America’s “Black Attorney General,” civil rights lawyer Ben Crump embraced his hard-earned moniker, whipping the crowd into a frenzy by insisting that he would fight “until hell freezes over.” “As your attorney general, I declare now more than ever, that we must be unapologetic defenders of Black life, liberty, and humanity,” Crump remarked. “Just like they try to ban our Black history, we must tell them without Black history, you would not have American history.

Just as the fight for the families of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tyre Nichols and so many others, Americans must now fight

son, and others, expressed his dedication to this cause, emphasizing the need to persist despite setbacks in civil rights protections.

The challenges the civil rights movement faced weren’t confined to the past; history revealed moments of triumph and tragedy. Following Dr. King’s landmark speech in 1963, dark incidents such as the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham and the abduction and murder of civil rights workers in Mississippi underscored

the ongoing struggle. Those tragedies also helped spurred the passage of crucial legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Bernice King, CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, acknowledged the weariness that can accompany the enduring fight for civil rights. She invoked her mother’s wisdom, stating, “Mother said, struggle is a never-ending process... Vigilance is the answer.”

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Wage: \$68,952.00/year
Position Type: Full time

Duties and position description:

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This includes, but is not limited to:

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- Gathering equipment nameplate information for transformers, motors, generators, switchgear, MCC's, panelboards etc.
- Gathering protective device data for devices such as circuit breakers, fuses, relays, etc. Data includes model/type, size, settings, and other necessary information
- Gathering cable sizes, lengths, and types, Gathering CT information where applicable,
- Gathering Utility source information
- Complete power system study for short circuit, coordination, and arc flash hazard analysis using SKM, ETAP, or other equivalent software
- Develop Time Current Curves (TCC's) for coordination and arc flash hazard reduction analysis
- Produce final written report to support power system study analysis
- Return to site to apply the arc flash hazard labels to applicable equipment

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering
- Proficiency with Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel
- Must be able to clearly communicate in English via verbal and written methods, and effectively communicate directly to customers and co-workers
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test and periodic, unannounced random drug tests
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment criminal background check
- Must be available to work overtime and travel out of town periodically
- Must be able to lift to 50 pounds, climb ladders, stand for extended periods, drive regularly, with or without reasonable accommodations
- Must be able to pass a fit for duty physical exam
- Must have a valid driver's license, and currently have and be able to maintain a good driving record
- Must be available for periodic domestic travel (Travel would likely be within Texas)

Desired Qualifications. Considered an Asset:

- Prefer educational focus in Power Systems studies
- Prefer candidate who have passed the FE Exam
- Experience in short-circuit, protective device coordination, arc-flash and power quality studies a plus
- Experience using SKM, ETAP, ASPEN, EasyPower, or other power system modeling software a plus

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Post-pandemic construction boom falls heavy in Texas cities

By Veronica Grecu
Rentcafe.com

Apartment construction in the U.S. is experiencing its best years on record, with 2023 expected to mark a peak, as greater supplies are continually needed. This, following household growth at a rapid rate after the pandemic, as job growth boomed and young adults moved out of their parents' homes. At the same time, "work-from-home prompted renters to form their own households to gain more living space for offices, children and pets," said Senior Analyst & Manager of Business Intelligence, Yardi Matrix, Doug Ressler.

The pandemic sparked a rental frenzy across the U.S., as house prices increased, and more people craved flexible and comfortable living spaces.

Developers delivered 1.2 million new apartments between 2020 and 2022. The peak of this construction boom was in 2021, as Americans embraced remote work and relocation as ways to explore better opportunities and lifestyles.

Almost two-thirds of the apartments built during the pandemic boom are clustered in just 20 high-growth metros, which equal about 41% of the total U.S. renter population. For many other places, new supply barely made a dent in existing supply, and around 89% of the apartments completed in the last three years are high-end and, thus, target upper-middle- and high-income renters.

Top metro areas for apartment construction since 2020 show the New York metro as number one, with a construction spree

a direct result of its longstanding housing shortage.

Dallas ranked second in the nation, as developers across the metroplex hustled to finish 76,660 units that got the go-ahead during the pandemic. The booming job market in the Dallas metroplex (supported by the industrial and tech sectors) fueled this construction spree. In the Dallas metro, developers are on track to build 23,659 new rentals by the end of the year, while Dallas proper will add 4,176 in 2023, as Fort Worth adds 2,469 and Frisco adds 2,296 apartments.

Yet, construction in the Dallas area is still not enough to meet the soaring demand for apartments, especially as America's new boomtown is facing a severe shortage of housing. To put things into context, Dallas gained more resi-

dents than any other U.S. metro between 2021 and 2022 alone (170,396 new residents for a total of 7.9 million, according to U.S. Census data). Further, more and more people are expected to relocate to the area in coming years as businesses continue to expand.

One possible solution for Dallas metro to alleviate the housing shortage is to use its untapped vacant land and speed up the permitting process to create up to 100,000 new apartments.

Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston metro tend to build single-family rentals to meet the needs of those not yet ready to become homeowners.

Other top metro areas included Miami, Atlanta, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Denver, Charlotte and Raleigh in

North Carolina, Orlando, Seattle, Nashville, Tampa, San Francisco, Jacksonville, the Twin Cities, and Chicago.

The annual apartment construction report based on Yardi Matrix data shows overall deliveries expected to remain high until 2025, when echoes of the current economic headwinds will begin affecting construction. But so far, in the last three years, America has been benefiting from a construction boom not seen since the 1970s.

Apartment construction is booming, but headwinds await new completions in coming years. Developers are working tirelessly to complete projects approved for construction at the height of the pandemic to meet needs of renters seeking more apartments

as hybrid work persists amid this urban churn. The supply growth will likely move more slowly after the current round of projects is completed.

"Tightening of bank lending standards, combined with rising costs of construction materials, labor and land, has made new projects harder to pencil," said Ressler. "Construction debt starts at 8% interest, and most banks only lend 60% or less of the total cost of a project. Junior construction debt is even more expensive, with interest rates in the mid-teens," he explained. "This financing structure can make it challenging for companies to initiate new construction projects unless they already have a

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USDA, from Page 12

largest U.S. poultry market in Africa, and the sixth largest globally last year, importing more than \$232 million of American poultry and poultry products.

The Angolan market presents strong export opportunities including poultry, pulses and dry beans, wheat, and wine. Local and U.S. industry partners also see opportunities for

other products, including rice and soy and vegetable oils, and other consumer-oriented products, including beef, pork, sauces and condiments, and distilled spirits.

The deadline to apply for the Angola trade mission has been extended to Friday, Sep. 1, 2023. Those interested can apply online. To learn more about this

and other USDA agribusiness trade missions, visit

fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-missions.

PROCTOR, from Page 2

Shaw & McClay in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she litigated cases for clients in the banking, public utilities, and corporate sectors. She earned

a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Spelman College and a Juris Doctorate and Master's in Leadership from Duquesne University.

LOEWE, from Page 2

in spearheading Black media engagement since the early days of the administration.

"She's smart, innovative, hard-working and has a passion that aligns with the President's mission of ensuring everyone has a seat at the table," Dunn said in

a statement provided to Ryan.

She added, "I'm confident she'll be a tremendous asset to the Public Engagement team as the President and Vice President continue working on behalf of communities across the country."

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Out to Pastor: How many coughs is enough for one day?

Dr. James L. Snyder

This past week started rather rough. At least rougher than others.

It started with a cough. A cough is not that serious if it's just one cough or maybe two. But it is not good when it is one cough after another and another.

One day last week, right after this coughing spell began, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I enjoyed a fine supper, and I sat back in my chair as we started watching TV and relaxing after a busy day.

Then, my coughing spree began. I coughed and coughed and coughed almost uncontrollably. I've had a coughing fit, and then I sneezed my brains out. That's snot good.

I was hoping to get this under control and quite soon.

Looking at me, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "What's all that coughing about?" She said it as though I had control over my coughing.

"Oh, nothing," I said, "I think I just swallowed a fly." Then I smiled.

"What," she exclaimed,

"you swallowed a fly? Didn't you have enough at supper?"

Now, I'm in trouble. I had no explanation that she would accept.

Then, I had another coughing spell that seemed worse than before. I tried to stop but just could not.

At my age, you would think I could control the things in my life. I tried, but I have yet to be successful.

Now, Miss-Nurse-Am-I stepped in. She had a thermometer to take my temperature, and it was high. She gave me a Covid test, and I passed, much to her chagrin and my smile. She then took my blood pressure, and it was high. Imagine 2 out of 3!

When all her testing was finished, she looked at me seriously. This was on Saturday, and she said we had to cancel our Sunday morning service. I tried to protest, but I was coughing too much to respond.

Not having the church service on Sunday morning is a great downer for me. I love nothing more than Sunday church. And there was no replacement, so the service had to be canceled.

That made me cough even more with a sour ending.

Then, the law was laid down. "I'm calling the doctor," she said, "on Monday and schedule an appointment. You're sick."

In my position, I had nothing to do but cough.

There is nothing more that I like doing than seeing my doctor to begin the week. He loves seeing me, and we all know why. It ain't my charming, good looks, that's for sure.

There is no Sunday I like less than not going to church and wearing pajamas all day. I did try to get dressed, but Miss-Nurse-Am-I caught me and said, "Don't you dare get dressed. You're spending the day in bed. You're sick."

Well, if I want to object to Miss-Nurse-Am-I, I had better make plans for my funeral.

I did not know how long a Sunday is when I'm in my pajamas, not permitted to do anything but cough. And cough, I did.

I tried to take advantage of these coughing spells and sometimes faked some. Don't let her know,

but a fake cough can have a soothing element to it, along with a smile.

Then Monday came, as it always does. The appointment was made for the morning, thanks to a cancellation. And I was getting ready to go to the doctor and get his report on my condition. I wasn't that anxious, but I had no choice then.

My appointment was at 10:15, and I arrived just before 10:00. I like to be early. I was lucky, and I got to see my doctor at 11:10. This is why doctors call us patients. We have to have patience to see the doctor.

Finally, the doctor was ready for me. First, I had to see his nurse to get the information for the medical evaluation. She took my temperature, my blood pressure, and all the rest.

Thirty minutes after she was finished, the doctor finally came. At that time, I was thinking of slipping out and go home and tell the wife the doctor said I was fine. As I was finishing this thought, guess who walked in?

I greeted him with a series of coughs.

"Not doing well," the doctor asked.

"That's why I'm here, Doc."

He looked through the nurse's information and then checked my lungs.

After checking the statics and asking me questions, he finally concluded.

Looking at me, he said, "You have acute bronchitis."

I glared back at the doctor and said, "Doc, this bronchitis is not cute to any degree."

I then coughed in his direction three times.

After the doctor's visit, the worst part of the day, I had to return to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and tell her what the doctor said was wrong with me and that she was right. She said I had bronchitis.

Looking at my watch, I saw I had enough time to stop and get some personal medication, an Apple Fritter. What she doesn't know gets me in no trouble.

While recovering from my sickness, I read something interesting in the Bible. "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Matthew 9:12).

As I get older, I realize that there are times when I do need to see a doctor. Even Jesus believed that.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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BUILDING, from Page 8

So, the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington represents a commemoration and a continuation of the work that's already been done to make America live up to her promise. As Anna Hedgeman wrote in her memoir *The Trumpet Sounds: A Memoir of Negro Leadership*, "We will not rest until there is justice in our beloved country, and we know that as justice comes to all Americans, it will come in increasing measure to the rest of the world."

Tamieka Atkins is the executive director of ProGeorgia, a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening democracy in the state. For over a decade, ProGeorgia has helped to uphold the legacy of community organizing, civic engagement, and viable policy change set forth by the trailblazers behind the March on Washington. Alongside our 61 partner organizations, we continue to employ smart, robust, and innovative strategies to rebuild democracy and magnify civic

engagement. While we organize for equity in our state, we also try to provide a framework for creating people-centered, positive change nationwide. What we've found most effective is centering our work around three major premises: relational, rather than transactional engagement; elevating the values, views, voices and leadership of women of color; and embracing, amplifying, and mobilizing young people. To learn more about our effort to protect Georgians' voter rights, visit www.govotega.org.

BOOM, from Page 13

substantial amount of capital on hand," said Ressler.

The number of new apartments is expected to drop by 15% year-over-year — from 484,000 in

2024 to 408,000 in 2025 — with new completions bottoming out in 2026 at approximately 400,000 units.

Then, according to Yardi Matrix estimates, the pace

of construction is projected to gradually recover in 2027 and 2028.

To view the full article, please see www.rentcafe.com/blog/rental-market/market-snapshots/new-apartment-construction/.

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I Give Myself to God



Sister Tarpley
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Religion
Editor

I finally decided to be loyal to God, true and dedicated with all my heart. Sin and bad habits I want to break, no more than five, a piece of cake.

I took a hard look at the person within; I found more than five problems in sin. The longer I looked the more I found my shame and embarrassment, overwhelmed.

I was a good girl by nature, turned bad girl by sin, suffering in the misery of the life that I'm in.

I made a mental list of all my problems to fix; the easy tasks I would save first and the tough for last.

The demons of my past haunt me in temptation; I struggle to fight against the dark life of Satan. I never dreamed this person could



be me, where is the good girl that others claim to see?

His peace so clam that my spirit grew strong. The presence of my Lord has been gone too long. Just a little taste of what He wants for me. My first time moment is as happy as it can be.

Let It Shine: The soul of a child has a bright shining light. The light of sweet Jesus is un-tarnished by fright; the soul of a child so pure and innocent. The sins of our world, a child knows not.

The light of sweet Jesus shines through their smile. The warmth of His love brings them joy and laughter. The light shines bright

in a spirit of happiness, where love and security is the foundation of home.

The light shines bright in the pit of their soul where nothing is ugly in a picture-perfect world.

A fairy tale life and living a dream is reality come true in the heart of the innocence, where all children live. The soul of a child with love and protection will bloom in the light by God's delicate perfection.

The light shines bright in God's beautiful garden where the seed of His children soaks in full rays of sunshine.

The light shines bright with special care that was prepared and delivered

straight from God's golden kingdom of Heaven. Aglow of innocence in the eyes of a child can calm the madness in a beast gone wild. --Two Editor's Choice Awards by author Mary Jane Dixon Metzler, Revised, Copyright © 2007.

The Lord's Prayer: **Our Father Who Art in Heaven** – Please align my thinking and expand my understanding as I seek connection with you first before everything else.

Hallowed By Thy Name – I praise and honor Thee by the way I love and treat Your creations. Through Your Grace I experience Your wholeness and perfection.

Thy Kingdom Come Thy Will Be Done – May Your divine order be accepted and practiced throughout the world.

On Earth As It Is In

Heaven – May I awake to Your direction and Your divine wisdom that You have placed in me.

Thank You This Day Our Daily Bread – I give thanks and glory for Your guidance, all of my needs and divine desires.

Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. – Help me to forgive others for mistakes they make in life so that I may be forgiven.

Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil – Lift me over times of challenge and despair. Steady and strengthen me so that I cause no harm to others or myself.

For Yours Is the Kingdom, The Power and the Glory – I accept Your glorious Kingdom. I feel Your power. I demonstrate Your glory by shining my light as I experience joy and oneness with You. Amen. Author Unknown and Revised.

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Please forward this invitation to friends and colleagues who you think would be interested in becoming Dallas CASA volunteers.





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