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THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2024 VOLUME XI

My Truth
By Cheryl Smith
Publisher



Why Black Women?

From time to time I have to go back and remind readers why we do the things we do.

Sure I hope that EVERYONE will read us weekly and understand what we are doing, but just in case, I don't mind sharing.

As we were celebrating the election of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, I told my team that 2021 was going to be the "Year of the Woman," especially the Black Woman!

LOVE



BLACK WOMEN

I believed that while many were celebrating this milestone, we were living in a false reality if we believed that everyone felt the joy that I was experiencing at that time.

With that in mind, I committed to dedicating considerable editorial real estate to uplifting Black women, who I believed were constantly under siege, especially by those we love the most.

I wanted to spread a message that we need to show love and empower people with love instead of destroying them with hate and disrespect.

With the beginning of Women's History Month, in March 2021, we began featuring Superb Black Women and I told you how I felt about the treatment of Black Women.

So, we began by saluting our Vice President.

It is important to note that these women are not chosen because of who they are married to, whose baby they gave birth to, or who fathered them. These women stand on their merit. They bring their receipts and they deserve to be recognized totally for their accomplishments.

Some of these women are degreed, some are not. And while some are considered to be "celebrities" ALL have done work worthy of celebrating.

Now once March was over, I couldn't stop.

Which brings me to my truth!

I had so much fun finding out so much about so many dynamic women of all ages - the oldest has been 100 years old and the youngest has been 21!

From time to time there will be one who has transitioned and others from across the country or around the world.

What they all have in common is RECEIPTS!

They are Superb!

I hope you get as much joy out of reading about these women as I did writing about

See MY TRUTH, Page 4

Show Me Your Papers

SCOTUS Upholds Racist Texas Anti-Immigration Law SB 4

AUSTIN, Texas - The U.S. Supreme Court has yet again overturned precedent and upheld Texas' anti-immigration bill SB 4 - which has been under scrutiny by the DOJ and immigrant rights advocates since Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed it into law last December.

SB 4 adds improper border entry as a new criminal offense that would place tens of thousands of undocumented Texas residents and migrants in the state criminal justice system. SB 4 will empower the Texas judicial system to deport vulnerable migrants whose only crime is seeking a better life for their families and the American Dream.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa issued the following statement:

"Let me be unequivocal: MAGA Republicans' SB 4 isn't about community safety - it's about enabling DPS to target neighborhoods and imprison people for the sake of FoxNews headlines. This



Chair Gilberto Hinojosa
Texas Democratic Party

inhumane border strategy will now force American citizens to carry passports in their own neighborhoods and enforce mass deportations of migrant women and children - all while overburdening local law enforcement.

"Right now, Texas Democrats from Austin to Washington are laser-focused on tackling southern border security with evidence-based solutions like the Bipartisan Security Bill and forming a Border Task Force in Congress. The MAGA Republican strategy to turn our southern border communities into a political battleground is cruel, shortsighted and divisive - undermining the very fabric of our country's fundamental freedoms."

State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas), also shared his response to the Supreme Court's decision.

Without question, this legislation carries with it the ability to codify racial profiling by giving law enforcement the proverbial green light to target with impunity, anyone who in their opinion, looks illegal.

SB 4 gives law enforcement the power to arrest a person if they suspect that person is an undocumented immigrant. I ask what are the factors that could amount to reasonable suspicion? Could it be the color of a person's skin, the language they speak, or the communities where they live or are passing through?

During debate on this bill before the Senate during the fourth special session of the legislature last year, there was robust discussion on what would constitute probable cause to allow an arrest under SB 4. The truth is that what constitutes probable cause is up to each and every individual law enforcement



Sen. Royce West

officer in the State of Texas at the time they engage in a traffic stop or other police and citizen interaction.

Let me be clear, SB 4 does NOT provide a mechanism for police to determine reasonable suspicion regarding who is and or who is not here legally. In fact, the majority of those voting in favor of this law voted against clarifying how police could determine probable cause or reasonable suspicion regarding enforcement of this now-enacted law!

Questions remain at every judicial level as to whether SB 4 stands in violation of 14th Amendment equal protection provisions. And of even more glaring constitutional concern is that SB 4 is in direct conflict with the federal

government's jurisdiction over immigration enforcement, consistent with the Supreme Court's 2012 ruling in Arizona v. United States.

Because this law does not prescribe probable cause or reasonable suspicion for arresting or detaining an individual, persons in this state can be subject to disparate and different policies and practices regarding who is legally allowed to be here. Enforcement activities may vary by area, from urban, to rural, to the border region.

No one deserves to be treated differently by officers simply because of the color of their skin. Senate Bill 4 sets the stage for law enforcement to unduly view those who are brown through a lens of suspicion.

Texas needs real solutions to address the problems at our southern border, and Senate Bill 4 creates nothing more than a pathway to confusion that could result in the arrest and detention of innocent Texans.

JUSTICE FINALLY

Rapist of sorority sisters sentenced

By Meredith Yeomans
Special Contributor
Courtesy: nbcdfw.com

A serial rapist who terrorized North Texas alumna of a sorority more than a decade was sentenced to life in prison this week.

Jeffrey Wheat, 52, pleaded guilty in a Collin County courtroom.

DNA connected Wheat to four sex assaults in Plano, Corinth, Coppell, and Arlington.

Three of the victims were alumnae members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, they were in their 50s and 60s, and were all three brutally raped in 2011 in their homes.

The fourth victim was a woman who was attacked in her Arlington home in 2003.

"You get to be a certain age and here these women thought they were safe in their homes, and they were violated," said

Cheryl Smith, publisher of Texas Metro News and alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Since 2012, Smith said she's printed reminders about the case that's affected her personally and professionally.

"It was frightening. It was frustrating. I was angry," said Smith. "I didn't want people to forget."

After the crimes, police gathered video evidence of the suspect, created a sketch, and even had his DNA, but the profile didn't match anyone in the system so the case went cold.

Then two Plano Police detectives were assigned to it in 2018 after new DNA tests connected the same suspect to a 2003 Arlington rape case.

"There were different times they thought

See JUSTICE FINALLY, Page 6



Jeffrey "Pookie" Wheat

Morehouse School of Medicine Researcher's Global Team Wins \$25 Million Cancer Grand Challenges Award

ATLANTA, GA - Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) today announced Team SAMBAI, a global team led by Melissa B. Davis, PhD, director of the MSM Institute of Translational Genomic Medicine, has been awarded a \$25 million grant funded by Cancer Research UK and the National Cancer Institute, through Cancer Grand Challenges, to address cancer disparities in populations of African ancestry, becoming the first Cancer Grand Challenge awardee to focus on cancer inequities.

Called Team SAMBAI (Social, Ancestry, Molecular and Biological Analyses of Inequalities), Dr. Davis is leading an interdisciplinary research group from the United States, Ghana, South Africa,

and the United Kingdom. The award not only marks the first one to focus on health disparities and to be led by an African-American woman, but it is also the first one awarded to a researcher at a Historically Black Medical School and is the first one given to a host institution in MSM's home state of Georgia.

"We are so incredibly proud of Dr. Davis' leadership in directing the effort to create a truly historic and precedent setting winning proposal to Cancer Grand Challenges that holds the potential to have a tremendous impact on how we treat cancer for people with African ancestry," said MSM President and CEO Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice. "For nearly 50 years, the driving mission of



Dr. Melissa Davis

Morehouse School of Medicine has been to address health inequities for communities of color, and we are honored to have the unique opportunity to carry that mission forward in partnership with Cancer Grand Challenges."

"I want to extend my appreciation to Cancer Research UK, the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Grand Challenges, my Team SAMBAI colleagues around the world, and my Morehouse School of Medicine family on being selected one of five world-class global research teams to win this award," said Dr. Davis. "We are looking forward to engaging into what we hope will be groundbreaking research that will shift the paradigm for cancer inequity amongst people of African descent and hopefully helping to save lives in the future." Team SAMBAI Members:

- Melissa Davis, Team Lead, Morehouse School of Medicine, United States

See MOREHOUSE SCHOOL, Page 5

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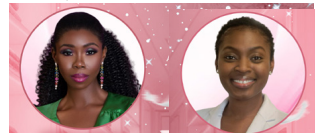
MARCH 23

Brody the Bunny will be joining in the fun for the City of Wilmer's annual Easter Egg Hunt at EBJ Elementary School at 201 S. Goode Rd, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children to 12, can get in on the fun and spend time hunting Easter eggs with Brody.

Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is partnering with local nonprofit Living for Zachary to host the "SuperHeart Health & Wellness Block Party" from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1800 Bonnie View Rd, Dallas, kicking off with the SaveStation ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., marking the fourth AED installation at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center.

Queen Williene's Closet, a subsidiary of VBI Enterprises presents

YOU ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH-The Experience and hear from Fashion Stylist & Image Consultant Eureka Calhoun and Psychologist Dr. Olunfunke Awo-



sogba discuss mental wellness & dress for success. Shop for gently-used suits, clothing and gowns, 9am-noon, African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Register to attend at Eventbrite.

28

UNITING VOICES Speaker Series
Thursday, March 28th
Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU
Isabel Wilkerson

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU.

North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., presents **GIVING BIRTH WITH GRACE AND POWER: FIGHTING FOR EQUITY IN BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH**, 7-8:30pm featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright



29

2024 NCAA Men's Basketball South Regional Experience the Madness of March as Dallas and the American Airlines Center host the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship South Regional on Friday, March 29, Sunday, March 31.

30

Easter Egg Hunt 12-2p.m. Grimes Park Pavilion, 501 W. Wintergreen Rd in DeSoto - join the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



APRIL 4

Booksigning for "In the Year of COVID, I Saw the Lord," by Bishop Jeffery D. Thomas, Sr. is Senior Pastor of the Mt. Rose Church of Dallas at the J.D. Thomas, Sr. Activity Center-7151 Field View Ln



6

African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEAHPP) Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Luncheon where Dr. Jennifer Wimbish will be inducted at Noon at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street in Dallas, Texas 75201. You may purchase tickets for \$100 at <https://aaeahp.org/donate/hof-luncheon/>



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Upsi-

ZΦB
ZETA PHI BETA
Ion Nu Zeta Chapter, and Zealous Dove Love Blue Revue Cotillion and Beautification Scholarship Program!
Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Hilton Garden Inn, 800 North Main St, Duncanville, TX 75115 Get your tickets for \$75.00

11



2024 DeSoto Candidate Forum for candidates vying for DeSoto City Council and DeSoto School Board Trustee at DeSoto Civic Center (Bluebonnet Room), 211 E Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

InnoTech Dallas, the Technology and Security Conference will be held at 500 Las Colinas Blvd W Irving, TX 75039. Janet Robertson will be a guest speaker at the InnoTech Dallas Technology and Security Conference at 1p.m. She will lead a conversation titled *Fostering Trust and Embracing Change: Building Stronger Business Teams*. For info - <https://www.innotechdallas.com/>

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS at W.E. Scott Theatre in Fort Worth

20

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's second annual Young Professionals Experience (YPX), DSO X Troupe Vertigo! This year's experience will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

21

Stock Market Investing & Entrepreneurship,



3-4:30 p.m. for middle-high school students at The DEC @Red Bird, 3560 W. Camp Wisdom. For more Info, call Project Still I Rise at 972-546-0977

23

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS 7:30pm at Eisemann Center in Richardson

25-26

TwoGether Land, the latest addition to the ONE Musicfest (OMF) family in partnership with Live Nation Urban, is set to make its mark in Dallas at the historic Fair Park.

27

PHILANTHROPARTY 2024 TOGETHER FOR GOOD
The Statler Dallas, 1914 Commerce St, Dallas, TX 75201 6 - 11pm CDT Social Venture Partners Dallas is looking forward to celebrating our 8th Annual Philanthropy!

Reach Media Inc. - Tom Joyner's Ultimate Party with a Purpose is gearing up to embark on the Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage 2024, a transformative experience aimed at supporting students in HBCUs. Departing from Miami, FL, on April 27

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Co-Host
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MARCH 23

AIDS WALK South Dallas 2024, celebrating 14 years, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King "Achieving Equity to end HIV." Jr. Blvd, Dallas. Registration now open! Scholarship and vendor opportunities available at www.AID-SWalkSouthDallas.com

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents *Surviving the Skin I'm in* 1K and 5K walk and run - healthcare 8 AM to 2 PM at Wilmer Hutchins High School 5520 Langdon Rd. To register visit dallasalumnae.org/events

CITY OF EULESS
EASTER SPLASH
March 23rd
9:30am
Euless Family Life Center Natatorium
\$10 PER PERSON
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND SPACE IS LIMITED.

24



Brunch with the Judge, GREATNESS IN THE GARDE, A Woman's HERstory Brunch featuring dermatologist, Dr. Dianne Davis. If you know a young lady who wants to come, learn and grow, encourage her to fill out the Google form here: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSddwcUuauWfW9.../viewform>

26

Witherite Law Group, is helping to sustain families in need during the upcoming Easter holiday. The law group is giving away 500 \$100 Honey Baked Ham gift cards to families in need on Tuesday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Honey Baked Hams, 4201 S. Cooper St., Arlington, TX,

28

North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents, Giving Birth with Grace and Power: Fighting for equity in Black Maternal Health, 7 PM to 8:30 pm March 28 featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright, post doctoral fellow, preventative medicine, and cardiovascular epidemiology from the Boston University school of medicine For more information, www.dstncta.org

The Alignable Networking Extravaganza will be held at The Warehouse, 1125 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, at 5:30pm.

APRIL

5

21st First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet Fundraiser, honoring Dave Lieber with the Open Doors - Lifetime achievement Award. Keynote speaker is Cynthia Izaguirre. To RSVP - <http://spjfw.org>. To purchase tickets with CC at <https://AwardScholbanq.eventbrite.com>. To pay at the door for individual tickets, visit https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390. To sponsor - visit https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390

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PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES



American Education Archives and History Program Educator's Hall of Fame induction is at the Sheraton in Dallas at noon.

NANBPWC, Inc. Garland Club presents 42nd Annual Founders' Day Scholarship and Awards Luncheon at 11am at the Hyatt Place, 5101 N. George Bush Hwy, Garland, featuring Maria Starling, Ed.D of Alvin Community College in Houston

7

Lesdisi - The Good Life Tour - Dallas

27

60th V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., at 12 noon, HILTON ANATOLE HOTEL Keynote Speaker at this scholarship benefit will be U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Subscriptions are \$ 70.00, and ad prices range from \$50-\$500. Among this year's honorees is Ella Goode Johnson, who will receive the coveted WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD.

MAY 5

Miss Jabberwock Pageant at 6:00 pm at Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Rd, Irving, TX 75062 presented by the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with Dodd Education and Support, Inc.,

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CROWNED SCHOLARS Gala
Crowned Scholars Gala, noon - 3pm, On the Levee, 1108 Quaker St. Dallas. Purchase tickets at www.crowned-scholars.org
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
TwoGether Land, the latest addition to the ONE Musicfest (OMF) family in partnership with Live Nation Urban, is set to make its mark in Dallas at the historic Fair Park. The renowned ONE Musicfest has chosen the vibrant city of Dallas as the perfect canvas for its expansion, introducing TwoGether Land as a sister festival.

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w/ Cheryl Smith
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BLACK STAR NETWORK
SPECTACULAR MAGAZINE

NAACP urges Black student-athletes to reconsider Florida colleges amid DEI feud



The NAACP issued a call to Black student-athletes to reconsider decisions to attend public colleges in Florida in response to a new state policy preventing institutions from utilizing government funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. Photo: NNPA NEWSWIRE

NAACP president and CEO Derrick Johnson has called on Black student-athletes to reconsider their decisions to attend public colleges and universities in Florida. The call comes in response to a new state policy preventing institutions from utilizing government funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

In a letter sent to current and prospective student-athletes of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) on Monday, March 11, NBC News reported that Johnson urged them to "choose wisely" amidst the ongoing debate surrounding DEI funding in Florida.

He emphasized the crucial role of diversity, equity, and inclusion in ensuring equitable and effective educational outcomes, noting that Black athletes' value to large universities is unmatched.

The controversy stems from a bill signed

by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis last year, restricting public colleges and universities from using state and federal funds for DEI programs. "If these institutions are unable to completely invest in those athletes, it's time they take their talents elsewhere," Johnson declared, according to NBC News.

The University of Florida's recent decision to eliminate all DEI positions, complying with the state rule, drew condemnation from NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith, an alum of the school. Smith emphasized the need or minority athletes to be aware and vocal about such decisions.

The trend against DEI programs has heightened, with Republican politicians in more than 30 states introducing bills to restrict or regulate such efforts. Texas Governor Greg Abbott, for instance, signed a law last year ordering the closure of DEI offices

at state-funded colleges and universities.

The NAACP's call comes on the heels of a similar message from Birmingham, Alabama, Mayor Randall Woodfin, who asserted that if his state passed a bill blocking funding for DEI in public colleges, he would encourage student-athletes to explore programs in other states.

Florida's significance in Division I

athletics and its central role in college sports business are one issue the NAACP zeroed in on. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Florida's sports teams generated over \$177 million in revenue from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

"If any institution is to reap the benefits of Black talent, it is only right that they completely invest in Black futures," Johnson argued.

On Cloud 9

Sorority sisters gather to celebrate chartering anniversary

Story and Photos
By Eva D. Coleman
Lifestyle & Culture Editor

Congratulations to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated* Omega Alpha Omega chapter on nine years of service to the Denton, Frisco, Little Elm, Prosper and The Colony, Texas communities. The chapter was chartered on International Women's Day, March 8, 2015.

Members gathered at Sidecar Social at the conclusion of their monthly chapter meeting on March 9, 2024 for their "On Cloud 9" celebration that included food, games, conversations and fun!

Omega Alpha Omega is currently led by President LaWanna Willis. Former presidents Tuere Williams and Alana Miller were in attendance at the celebration as well. Chartering president Patrice Withers-Stephens and former president Alice Walker were not in attendance, yet extended their love and support.

Adorned in pink, white and pearls, the sorority sisters took over the top floor of the venue. The elevated celebration aligns with how the Omega Alpha Omega chapter is always "Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood," which is the sorority's current international administration theme.



AKA Omega Alpha Omega former chapter president Tuere Williams at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024



AKA Omega Alpha Omega chapter members enjoying food at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024



AKA Omega Alpha Omega chapter president LaWanna Willis and former president Alana Miller at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024



AKA Omega Alpha Omega chapter hostess Autumn Lawson at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024



AKA Omega Alpha Omega chapter members enjoying conversation at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024



AKA Omega Alpha Omega members Eva D. Coleman and Roxie Jackson at 9th anniversary event at Sidecar Social in Frisco, Texas March 9, 2024

ARLINGTON, TX APRIL 12 & 13

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Lady Day and The Lights!

Quit Playin'

By Vincent L. Hall



*Pastoral scene of the gallant South
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolia, sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh -*

Strange Fruit - as recorded by
Billie Holiday

Lights Up!

It is Women's History Month, and there are more heroines that get left out than featured.

"Lady Day" brought some sunlight to one of the darkest eras of modern American history. You know, that American history they keep trying to erase.

Eleanora Fagan Gough, aka Billie Holiday, aka Lady Day, made a statement that bears rehearsal and rethinking.

She once said, "we never know what is enough until we know what is more than enough."

Her statement is more relevant today than most of us realize.

Billie Holiday was a talented singer who broke through the color barrier with considerable force. She sang the Blues in a classy, connective, and convincing fashion. When she hit the stage, and the spotlight fell upon her, you never knew what to expect.

In conversations with the "Lady," she admitted that she was bored of singing the same song the same way night after night. That need to entertain herself while entertaining others made her worth the price of admission at any cost. She was a legend.

Sadly, though, her addiction to

the drugs that eventually quieted her voice was too much for her.

In fact, by the time she had had enough, the effects had silenced one of the most extraordinary vocal talents in our history.

"Southern trees bear a strange fruit," Billie Holiday sang. It was the same fruit Ida B. Wells chronicled in her 1892 report, Southern Horrors, and the same fruit W.E.B. Du Bois alludes to in "Of the Coming of John"—"And the world whistled in his ears." Holiday, a Black Catholic, continues her sorrowful song: "Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees."

According to Biography Online:

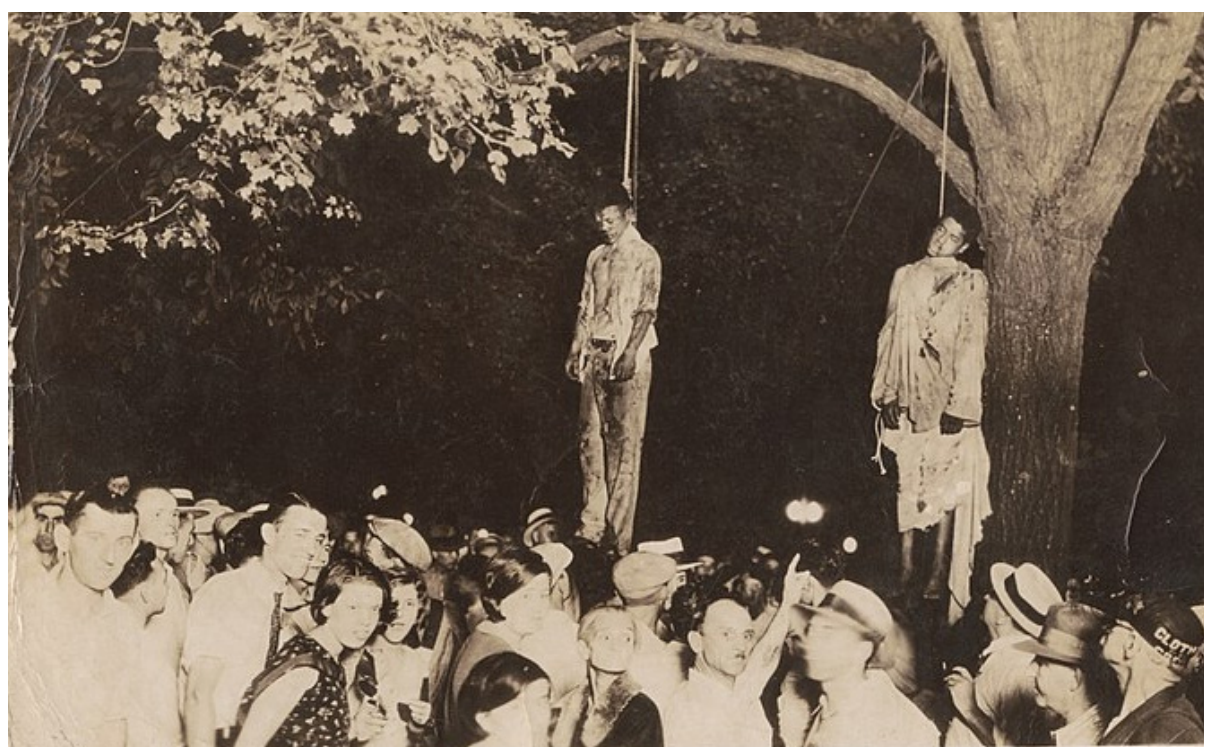
"In March 1939, a 23-year-old Billie Holiday walked up to the mic at West 4th's Cafe Society in New York City to sing her final song of the night.

Per her request, the waiters stopped serving and the room went completely black, save for a spotlight on her face.



Billie Holiday

And then she sang, softly in her raw and emotional voice: "Southern trees bear a strange fruit, Blood on the leaves and blood at the root, Black body swinging in the Southern breeze, Strange



Just one of many lynchings

fruit hanging from the poplar trees..."

When Holiday heard the lyrics, she was deeply moved by them — not only because she was a Black American but also because the song reminded her of her father, who died at 39 from a fatal lung disorder, after being turned away from a hospital because he was a Black man.

Because of the painful memories it conjured, Holiday didn't enjoy performing "Strange Fruit" but knew she had to.

"It reminds me of how Pop died," she said of the song in her autobiography. "But I have to keep singing it, not only because people ask for it, but because 20 years after Pop died, the things that killed him are still happening in the South."

Strange fruit emanated from a peculiar place. Although Wells, DuBois, and other Negro leaders

laid the foundation for the song, its penman was the son of Russian immigrants.

Lewis Allan, published under the pseudonym Abel Meeropol, wrote an article called "Bitter Fruit" for publication in a magazine for unionized teachers.

Parenthetically, Meeropol was the DeWitt Clinton high school classmate of Countee Cullen. Cullen was a brilliant poet, playwright, and novelist in his own right.

The Moral: Integration and diversity matter!

In its infancy, "Strange Fruit" originated as a protest poem against the lynchings that set the South ablaze in terror.

In the poem, Meeropol expressed his horror at the lynchings of African Americans, inspired by Lawrence Beitler's photograph of the 1930 lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abram

Smith in Marion, IN.

The problem of lynchings and hangings, both public and covert, was magnified in America because of Lawrence Beitler's photography.

Billie Holiday's vocal version gave the injustice of the killings more context and conviction.

"When Holiday finished, the spotlight turned off. When the lights came back on, the stage was empty. She was gone.

And per her request, there was no encore.

This was how Holiday performed "Strange Fruit," which she would determinedly sing for the next 20 years until her untimely death at the age of 44.

Lights down!

Quit Playin'!

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist, award-winning columnist and a life-long Drapetomaniac!

Storming Onto Football Fields, Basketball Courts has Become Dangerous

Our Voices

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



Going to basketball games and football games in high school and college was fun. We cheered feverishly wanting our team to win.

There were rivalry games as well, so our emotions were high. I figured out early on that winning was much better than losing.

Running onto a football field after a game wasn't something we did with any regularity.

If anything, it delayed our having to go home. We would hang out on the field just to have a little more time with our friends.

If you fast forward to recent years, another form of cheering for your favorite team is taking place. Going onto a field or court after a game is becoming the norm.

Can you imagine if you are on the opposing team and losing in the final seconds seeing swarms of people coming directly at you? Suddenly, you are surrounded by hundreds of total strangers pushing and shoving.

That same scenario occurs when you are on the winning side as well. The common denominator is that it puts student-athletes at risk for injury.

Watching basketball and football games on television is quite a different experience than seeing them in person. I have been on both sides of that coin.

We have experienced students storming the football field. We stayed in the stands and watched.

Was it alarming? Yes. It is uncontrolled mayhem. Seeing students jumping walls and ropes to be on a field is simply not my cup of tea.

An Oklahoma fan on social media reported that it had been 22 years since he had stormed a football field.

Well, this shows it did happen

in past years.

The difference is that it is happening with more frequency now. I believe my view is shared by many fans.

Conferences at the Division I level are having a problem with court and fieldstorming.

Some conferences are slow to act. The SEC (Southeastern Conference) seems to be leading the way in trying to figure out some solutions. They have fines up to \$250,000.00.

Do students care? University of Alabama Athletic Director, Greg Byrne said, "Fines don't work. Nobody is sitting in the stands saying they are not going on the field because we are going to get fined."

Football storming has been going on longer. Now, basketball court storming is taking center stage.

There is not a week that goes by that I don't see at least three teams having this issue. As the game winds down, you can see students poised and ready to

storm the court.

Duke University, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, has a basketball team that is not popular with some people. Not sure why that is the case.

A few weeks ago, they played Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem NC. Duke lost the game and madness ensued.

One of the Blue Devil players, Kyle Filipowski was injured because of students storming the court.

The video showed a person running into him. He had to be helped from the court. Fortunately, he was able to play in the next game.

One writer on the podcast, Eye on College Basketball said an announcement should be made prior to the game stating that anyone storming the court or field would be arrested like those who run onto NFL and MLB fields.

Would a college student test that rule? Probably so.

The key will have to be the en-

forcement of the rule. Sadly, will someone have to lose their life before legislation is implemented?

The NCAA is a billion-dollar industry. Surely, they can implement a set of rules to stymie what seems now to be trending upward. They acted on creating a larger field for the CFP (College Football Play-Offs).

They must act with haste on this matter. The ramifications of a student losing their life because of court and field, storming is something the NCAA doesn't want to face.

Dr. James B. Ewers, Jr. is a long-time educator who hails from Winston Salem, N.C. One of the top tennis players in the state, he was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in January 2021. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, he received his M. A. degree in Education from Catholic University in Washington, DC, and Ed. D. degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. He has also done post-doctoral studies at Harvard University and Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

My Truth: Why Black Women? cont. from page 1

them. And guess what? They didn't have a clue that they were being featured and I didn't ask for information or pictures; nor did we ask for money.

We do our homework and sometimes a reader will send a nomination in. Surprisingly, every name that has been sent in

was already on the ever-growing list!

When will it end? I haven't a clue.

It brings me so much joy. I'm already thinking of other ways to celebrate Black women; to share love and also to enlighten and inform.

Join me in spreading joy. You can nominate someone by emailing me at editor@texasmetrone-ews.com.

Also encourage people to like, click, share and sub-scribe.

As we celebrate Black Women here, how about if we also celebrate all women?

For everyone, whoever you are, let's make a pledge that since it was your heart that pumped simultaneously with the heart of a woman; you will never, ever disparage a woman.

Black women have been called so much, good and bad.

We celebrate them and call

them SUPERB!

I hope you will too.

Some will ask, "why superb?"

To them, I say, "why not?" And my response is not a question, if you get my drift!

And just know this. We will keep having Superb Women forever!

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The Greatness Within You



Faithful Utterances

By Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew

Last week, I was fortunate to attend an event sponsored by ISP Creative to focus on four giving circles in the Dallas area for International Women's Day.

All of these circles are designed by and for women of color. I am fortunate to serve as co-founder of HERitage Giving Circle (heritagegivingfund.org) which focuses on providing funding for Black women-led nonprofits serving Black women and girls.

I am so grateful for the vision of Akilah Wallace to include Dr. Halima Leak-Francis and me to be a part of making this dream a reality in 2017.

Since that time, we have raised over \$100,000 of our funds to support these organizations.

This work has not been easy but

I'm so excited for the future and newer, younger leadership taking this dream to the next level.

We started this organization because we saw that organizations led by Black women were not receiving the funding they deserved. Data also confirmed what we were experiencing and witnessing as well. The Ms. Foundation's Pocket Change report offers an affirmation of what we knew:

- Organizations that serve a specific subpopulation, like Black or African American women or girls, were more likely to have budgets under \$50,000 whereas 73.7% of all other organizations had budgets over \$50,000.

- According to an article in Candid, "In 2018, just \$15 million out of almost \$428 billion in philanthropic giving in the United States reached Black women and girls. That means less than 1 percent" is given to support our communities by philanthropy.

This is why organizations like HERitage are critical.

Being "othered" is not new for our community, especially for Black women. This "othering" shows up as I mentioned last week in the workplace causing significant stress including in the case of Dr. Antoinette Candia-Bailey, death.

This "othering" also shows up in our ability to fund our efforts that allow us to contribute to our community's well-being.

In the Bible, one of my favorite characters is Hagar from Genesis 16. In the book, Reimagining Hagar: Blackness and Bible, the author elaborates on the different identities of Hagar: She was a woman. She was Egyptian—an African—living among Hebrews.

Hagar was a maidservant given to Abraham because Sarah could not conceive. She ultimately experienced the anger of Sarah and chose not to stay and submit to the mistreatment.

She left the place that had been her residence—keeping in mind that she was also taken from Egypt to enslavement. She left behind

not only the abuse but the known for the unknown. Hagar knew trauma.

It is in the wilderness that Hagar encounters God. Hagar is the first person to give God a name: El Roi, "The God who sees me" (Gen 16:13).

She goes back to deliver her son Ishmael. 13 years later, Sarah has her son, Issac, whom God had made the covenant with to continue his promise through Abraham.

Sarah says "Get rid of that slave woman" because she did not want Ishmael to have Isaac's inheritance (Gen. 21:10). As they left, Abraham gave her water and bread which ultimately ran out. In the wilderness with no resources and support, she worried that her son would die.

An angel of the Lord told her that God heard Ishmael's cry and asked, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is." (Genesis 21:17) God tells her that Ishmael will be responsi-

ble for a great nation and her eyes were opened to see a well of water.

Here is a lesson: In our struggles and our "othering," God not only provides resources but opens our eyes to what we do not see—the possibilities.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I hope that we open our eyes to witness what God is doing around us, that we trust God's plan, and continue to make a difference even when others do not see who we are or value what we bring.

Scripture reminds us: "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit." (Galatians 6:9-10 MSG)

Hagar teaches us not to give up on us! Greatness lies within...

Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is an author of three books and the host of The Tapestry podcast. To listen to episodes of the podcast, visit https://www.spreaker.com/show/the-tapestry_1 and to learn more about her work, go to <https://drfroswa.com/>

How to Access Free COVID Vaccines



To Be Equal

By Marc Morial

"We have more tools than ever to protect against serious COVID-19 disease and death, but we must make sure everyone has equitable access to those tools." — CDC Director Mandy Cohen

COVID-19 vaccines prevented an estimated 18 million hospitalizations and more than 3 million deaths in the United States, while saving about \$1.5 trillion in medical costs in the first two years after they were introduced.

The nation's vaccination strategy, aimed to quickly deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, achieved remarkable success by vaccinating 270 million Americans within the first two and a half years after its approval. This accomplishment was largely attributed to the fact that anyone could receive a vaccine at no cost, regardless of their insurance status.

More than 40 Urban League affiliates across the country supported this effort by partnering

with community health clinics, hospital systems, local pharmacies and health departments to bring the vaccines directly to community members. They established pop-up vaccine clinics in Urban League offices, churches, schools, community centers, housing complexes, senior centers, local colleges and universities, farmers markets and street fairs to ensure their communities had reliable and convenient access to the vaccines. In total, Urban League affiliates hosted more than 850 vaccine events and clinics, administering more than 120,000 vaccine doses to community members.

However, after the public health emergency ended in the spring of 2023, the federal government stopped purchasing and distributing the vaccines for free to individuals. Although most uninsured and underinsured Americans remain eligible for free vaccines, many are unaware of how to access them. Consequently, many have delayed getting their updated COVID shots out of fear of being charged, leaving the most vulnerable Americans unprotected amid the current surge of COVID-19 cases this winter.

Most adults are able to receive

the COVID vaccine at no cost through their private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid plans.

However, there are still between 25 million and 30 million adults without health insurance, and additional adults whose insurance does not cover all vac-



cine costs. Paying out of pocket for the updated COVID vaccine is a significant burden for most uninsured adults, who are disproportionately low-income and people of color. Given they are often in poorer health compared to those who are insured, they are even more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19 infection. People of color are also disproportionately experiencing

long-term symptoms and health problems following a COVID-19 infection, a condition known as long COVID. Long COVID does not affect everyone the same way, but common symptoms include fatigue, fever, cough, headache, chest pain and shortness of breath

for weeks, months or years after COVID-19 illness. Long COVID has disrupted many lives and is keeping as many as a million people out of work in the U.S. Anticipating this crisis, the Department of Health and Human Services created a public-private partnership called the Bridge Access Program to ensure continued access to COVID-19 vaccines. Bridge Access provides

free COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs. Bridge Access providers include Walgreens, CVS and pharmacies in the eTrueNorth network, select local healthcare providers, and HRSA-supported Health Centers.

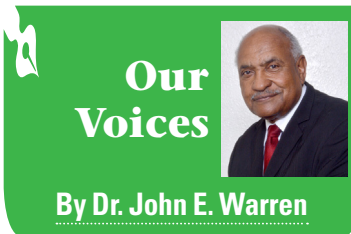
To find an approved Bridge Access provider:

1. Go to vaccines.gov, enter your zip code, select the vaccine you prefer, and check the Bridge Access Program participant box.
2. Select your preferred location and make your appointment.
3. When you arrive for your appointment, confirm that your vaccine should be covered under the CDC's Bridge Access Program based on your insurance status.

The availability of free COVID-19 vaccinations through the CDC's Bridge Access Program is critical as we navigate the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19. By getting vaccinated, we can protect ourselves and the health of our entire community — especially the most vulnerable among us.

Marc Morial is president/CEO of the National Urban League.

We Are Responsible For Those We Elect



Our Voices

By Dr. John E. Warren

This week, "We The People" have gone to the Polls in 15 states on what we call "Super Tuesday". Primary elections are being held across this country. Candidates are being set in place to run in the November General Election. While there appears to be much concern about the Republican party which no longer appears to be concerned with its role in our two Party system, nor the blatant disregard for the oath of office

those holding office took when they pledged to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States" against all enemies "foreign and domestic", it appears that too many Americans have forgotten who elected those who seem determined to destroy democracy as we know it.

The Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement is not representative of the majority of the American people. But this fraction can overthrow our present system of government if those of us who disagree with them refuse to come out and vote them out of office.

Please know that Joe Biden is not the model for the Presidency. He has not done all that he could

for the very Black vote that gave him the Presidency. He failed to get the United States Senate to break the Filibuster and pass the George Floyd and John Lewis Acts. After more than 36 years in the Senate and 8 years as Vice President of the United States, he couldn't do as his predecessor, Lyndon Baines Johnson, did and use the power of the Presidency to bring change. In spite of his weaknesses, he is better than the alternative who would help out enemies like Russia, and North Korea while using his office for personal revenge as he has promised, rather than serving America.

We the people must vote from now through the November General Election to remove from of-

fice in each state, those persons whose track records do not reflect our concerns for immigration and our borders, nutrition and childcare for our children as well as affordable drug prices for those in need; we must help the homeless among us and continue the Build Back Better and Inflation Reduction Acts we have seen in the last four years. We must not elect another Office Holder at any level who puts former President Donald Trump before their Oath of Office to the Constitution of the United States and the people who elected them.

America, this could well be our last wake up call as our allies study how seriously we take our pledge to support them as op-

posed to having a President who will encourage our enemies to attack those who he thinks have not paid their dues to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

We must re-elect a President who understands Article 5 and our responsibilities which could place this nation in World War 3 if not handled properly. The vote starts right here at home wherever home is for you and you are personally responsible for our future and those who get in office to determine that future. Vote like your life depends on it because it really does.

Dr. John E. Warren is publisher of The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint.

Morehouse School of Medicine Researcher cont. from page 1

- Yaw Bediako, Yemaachi Biotech, Ghana
- Tiffany Carson, Moffitt Cancer Center, United States
- Isidro Cortes Ciriano, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, United Kingdom
- Zodwa Dlamini, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Olivier Elemento, Cornell University, United States
- Rick Fairley, TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance, United States
- Fieke Froeling, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Marcin Imielinski, New York

- University, United States
 - Sheeba Irshad, King's College London, United Kingdom
 - Lauren McCullough, Emory University, United States
 - Gary Miller, Columbia University, United States
 - Nigel Mongan, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
 - Nicolas Robine, New York Genome Center, United States
 - Clayton Yates, John Hopkins University, United States
- The Team SAMBAI proposal integrates social determinants of health, environmental exposures, genetic contributions, and

tumor biology to understand the complex interactions between genetics, environment, and social factors in cancer outcomes. The proposal also highlights the importance of patient partnership, advocacy, and support in addressing cancer disparities.

The proposal also focuses on breast cancer, particularly among Black women. While Black women have a slightly lower incidence rate of breast cancer compared to White women, they are more frequently diagnosed with advanced disease and have a higher incidence of aggressive forms of

breast cancer, such as estrogen receptor (ER) negative (TRIPLE NEGATIVE) disease. This contributes to racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes.

"Together with our network of visionary partners and research leaders, Cancer Grand Challenges unites the world's brightest minds across boundaries and disciplines and aims to overcome cancer's toughest problems," said Dr. David Scott, Director of Cancer Grand Challenges. "With this investment, our largest to date, we continue to grow our global research community, and fund new teams

that have the potential to surface discoveries that could positively impact cancer outcomes."

Now in its fourth funding round, this year Cancer Grand Challenges funded five global teams providing up to \$25 million in grants per team over five years for a wide range of research projects including cancer inequities, early-onset cancers, solid tumors in children and T-cell receptors.

For more information on Team SAMBAI, its members and their approach to tackling the cancer inequities challenge, visit <https://cancergrandchallenges.org/>.

JUSTICE FINALLY cont. from page 1

they were close to the suspect, but they never gave up," said Collin County District Attorney Greg Willis.

Willis said detectives spent two years narrowing in on a suspect using forensic genetic genealogy.

"There they found distant relatives and narrowed it down from there and that's how they caught him," said Willis.

Wheat was arrested in 2021 for first-degree burglary of a habitation with intent to commit sexual assault. He was living in Lexington, Mississippi, and working as a long-haul truck driver at the time of his arrest.

However, Willis said Wheat had been living

in the DFW area during the periods of all four of the offenses.

Investigators said he worked at a credit card processing company used by the sorority.

"He misused this position at this company and had access to sensitive information and he misused that in the worst sort of way," said Willis. "He's just a straight-up predator."

Willis said Wheat pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal across multiple counties.

Wheat was sentenced to life in prison for cases in Collin and Tarrant counties. In Dallas County, he was sentenced to 30 years for aggravated sexual assault.

"I wanted to go and shout and then I felt like I was going to bust out crying and I was trying to balance everything out because I hurt for the victims," said Smith.


Smith said she thinks of the case every day and is thankful the story now has an ending.



Meredith Yeomans joined NBC 5 in May 2015. She has lived in Collin County since 2012 and is proud to report stories from the place she calls home. In 2014, she won the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters awards for "Best Spot Story" and "Best Series."
View Meredith's story at - https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/serial-rapist-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/3473232/?_osource=db_npd_nbc_kxas_eml_shr



BLACK WOMEN PILOTS ACTIVITY SHEET





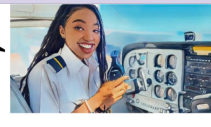
Hi Everyone!

Even though I fly a lot in Sankofa 82, it never ceases to amaze me what an awesome flying machine she is! It also made me appreciate the fine Black American females who dared to become pilots in the United States. Have you ever been in the cockpit to see how the pilots fly the plane? Let's explore what it takes to become a pilot and meet some of the brave Black American female pilots who took to the skies!

SISTERS OF THE SKIES!

Sisters of the Skies is an organization of professional black women pilots. There are less than 150 black women pilots in the United States holding a license. This organization, which tracks the numbers of Black female pilots, was created to inspire young girls of color to take an interest in aviation through mentoring them and pairing them up with Black female pilots who have already earned their wings.

POP-UP! ANOTHER SISTER OF THE SKIES...



Miracle Izuchukwu, age 25, is the youngest Black female pilot for a commercial airline.

FIRST BLACK FEMALE PILOT: BESSIE COLEMAN



Even though she started out washing and ironing clothes and giving manicures, Bessie Coleman was determined to make more out of her life. With determination to achieve more, she became excited about learning to fly airplanes. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, Bessie took it upon herself to learn French and move to France to achieve her goal. Coleman earned her license from France's well known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation. Once back in the United States, Bessie Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, and earned a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She remains a Pioneer of Women in the Field of Aviation.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

Unscramble these words in one minute or less. The first letter of each word is in bold.

sretsiS fo ehst seikS
 lotPi
 aivAnoit
 plAaimes
 Ftihgil
 pitckoc

HIDDEN GEMS

Cross out the names of each animal to uncover who was the first Black female pilot and the name of the organization that inspires young black women to become Black female pilots.

BEAR BESSIE FROG COLEMAN HEN CAT DOG SISTERS
 WOLF PUPPY OF DEER THE PIG BIRD SKIES

FLIGHT FACTS!

Fill in the blanks from the words in the Word Box below.

Inspire, Monique Grayson, Sisters of the Skies, pilot, Aviation, Brianna Jackson, Aviation, Western Michigan, Alexis Brown, French, Michal Clark

Bessie Coleman was the first Black female _____ University.
 WMU stands for _____
 The professional organization of Black Female Pilots is called _____
 Bessie Coleman learned _____ to attend the Caudron's Brothers School of _____
 Four women who graduated from Western Michigan University College of Aviation: _____
 Sisters of the Skies, which tracks the number of Black Female pilots, was created to _____ young girls to take interest in the field of _____

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN FLY!




A pilot is a person that drives a transport vehicle such as an airplane, spacecraft or boat. All types of pilots must pass tests and earn a license before they can operate the vehicle. Airline pilots must be at least 23 years old. A commercial airline pilot's license requires 250 hours of flight experience. The pilots are responsible for making sure that the passengers, crew, and the aircraft itself are safe. Professional female pilots make up only 5% of the piloting workforce, with Black women representing less than 1% of the piloting workforce.

I GOT WINGS!



Monique Grayson, Micah Clark, Alexis Brown and Brianna Jackson are 4 Black women who are affecting history. These four are graduates of the Western Michigan University, College of Aviation. They are among the few who make up the Sisters of the Skies who have earned their wings! They are defying the odds and soaring to new heights as commercial airline pilots, all while trailblazing a path to follow for young African American women who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation flight science.



KEMET I JUST GOT TO SIT IN THE COCKPIT OF A PLANE!
 I FINALLY THINK I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO BE. A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT!
 NO, YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE.

ANSWER KEY
 ONE MINUTE MADNESS: Sisters of the Skies, Aviation, Airplane, Flight, Cockpit
 HIDDEN GEMS: Inspire, Monique Grayson, Brianna Jackson, Aviation, Western Michigan, Alexis Brown, French, Michal Clark



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LIFE

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Carrying the Torch for Education

Olympian champions early childhood learning

By Eva D. Coleman
Lifestyle & Culture Editor

As a high school student, Allyson Felix was set on the path of her most notable success.

Joining the track team as a freshman opened her lane to becoming the most decorated female track and field athlete in Olympic history.

As a wife and mother to a young daughter, now expecting her second child, Felix prioritizes education readiness at a young age for her growing family.

"I want my children to be prepared to go to kindergarten," Felix said. "I think the time when they're still at home, the time when they're preschool age, making sure that that's a productive time, and that I'm setting them up to be learners for life."

Recently in Dallas at the Ritz-Carlton hotel for the Educational First Steps "Striving for Greatness with Allyson Felix" Benefit Gala on Feb. 20, 2024, many clamored at the opportunity to get a photo with the Olympian.

There was a one-on-one conversation in front of the audience, led by Kristi Nelson of NBC 5 who also served as the event emcee.

Following the conversation was a spirited, live auction with people bidding on extravagant gifts and opportunities.

Educational First Steps President & CEO Vickie Allen-Brown gave greetings, filled with emotions of joy in seeing young kids soar; even if their dream, as a couple of children stated in the video that was shown, to be a Power Ranger or a ninja kid when they grow up. It drew laughter from the crowd, however the mission was clear... to raise awareness



Olympian Allyson Felix and NBC 5's Kristi Nelson in conversation during Educational First Steps gala at Ritz-Carlton Feb. 20, 2024 in Dallas

Photos: Eva D. Coleman

and funds for childcare centers and home-based providers, especially for the birth to age five students they empower and serve.



Olympian Allyson Felix poses with Educational First Steps President & CEO Vickie Allen-Brown at conclusion of Educational First Steps gala at Ritz-Carlton Feb. 20, 2024 in Dallas

"Most importantly, we have in this room a group of supporters shining a light on a crisis that exists in early childhood education today," Allen-Brown said during her remarks. "Despite being one of the most crucial stages in human development, early childhood education continues to be underfunded in our American economy."

Allen-Brown cited statistics that were known to some and alarming

to others in the audience.

"The U.S. invests on average about \$10,000 for children from age five to 18, while only allocating \$2,800 for kids three to four," Allen-Brown said.

She added, "Texas does not mandate children to go to kindergarten, and that is the hardest thing to grapple with because they need to be in classrooms."

Allen-Brown then shared her often posed question with the crowd.

"Why are we investing the least where the return is the greatest?"

The "Striving for Greatness with Allyson Felix" gala raised over \$800,000 during their signature event, giving attendees the opportunity to fortify their commitment of ensuring students have a strong start to help them get to the finish line.

The evening also included presentations of the Early Childhood Champion Award, bestowed in individual and corporate categories to Jennifer Mosle and Berry Corporation respectively.

Evern Speers, who has owned StoryTime Overnight Child Care Services in Cedar Hill, Texas for 14 years, made it a priority to support and attend the Educational First Steps gala.

"This event is a privileged event that helps promote the childcare in-



Guests pose for photo inside ballroom at Educational First Steps gala at Ritz-Carlton Feb. 20, 2024 in Dallas

dustry, so anything that helps promote our industry, I feel helps promote the children, helps promote education, I want to be a part of that," Speers said.

Speers started StoryTime Overnight Child Care out of a need she noticed in her community.

"I originally wanted something different and I saw that in our area, there were no help for parents with unusual schedules; the 12-8 nurses, 10-7 in the morning shifts, and so I thought, 'Well, I think I can address that because there's a need for that and I have a big house with just me and my husband,'" Speers said.

Her idea quickly grew into a full house.

"I started out with a couple of clients and word spread like hot water and before I knew it, I just had kids all the time and I loved it," Speers said.

Speers could hardly contain her excitement as she expressed the joy she felt in the relief experienced by

families who entrusted their children with her care.

"Their faces, knowing their kids were secure and they didn't have to worry while they were working those weird hours; it just heated my heart like nothing else I had done before; and that was it, that was all it took."

Speers and countless others are caring for children at pivotal moments of growth.

With many medals of award-winning moments to her credit, Olympian and Black maternal health advocate Allyson Felix sees what they are providing for families as good as gold.

"To have access to early stage education at such a crucial point where we know our children are really developing," Felix said. That's why I love how Educational First Steps has invested in there and they understand how important that is."

For more information, visit educationalfirststeps.org.

LUNDY'S LEGACY OF LOVE

A true servant of the people

Many who knew Dr. W. Larry Lundy, talk about his noble spirit, commitment to excellence, spiritual foundation, and love of his people; long before they talk about his many degrees, accolades, and medical expertise.

A consummate professional who was highly respected, Dr. Lundy was an acclaimed podiatrist, businessman, community servant, husband, father, and grandfather.

Dr. Lundy held a special place in Nettie Ivory Adams heart because he cared so delicately for her feet, re-

Selma, AL on January 4, 1929, and he transitioned in Dallas, TX on Friday, February 23, 2024. He was 95.

When he was young, he was a member of First Baptist Church in Selma and following graduation from Selma's Knox Academy, he went on to attend Knoxville College in Tennessee; where he held several jobs to help pay for his education.

While the scholar-athlete stayed busy working and studying; he also played football, ran track, and pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1950.

various leadership roles for over 55 years.

During his time in Dallas, Dr. Lundy set up his practice on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard where he served the community for more than 50 years.

He was of and for his community and his support never wavered

He later opened a second foot clinic, in Hamilton Park in North Dallas, until the city acquired the surrounding area to open the now Robert E. Price Post Office.

Dr. Lundy treated patients at sev-



Dr. W. Larry Lundy

joined the Cooper Aerobics Center, ran in several marathons, and exercised well into his 90s.

He was a Renaissance man and lifelong learner, taking on subjects like calligraphy and Spanish; while also learning how to snow ski. One of Dr. Lundy's favorite mantras was, "You have to keep on moving!"

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lee (Houchins) Lundy; his parents, Willie and Hettie (Crumpton) Lundy; four brothers - Isaac Lamar Lundy, Sylvester Lundy, John Donald Lundy, and Augustus Larry Lundy; and three sisters - Carrie L. Hunter, Marzetta Lundy Baldwin, and Bertha Lee Smith.

Dr. Lundy leaves many to cherish loving and lasting memories, including his son, Larry W. Lundy, and his wife, Audrey; his daughter, Andrea, and her husband, Joe Breedlove, Jr.; his grandchildren - Laurence W. Lundy III, McKenna Breedlove, and Joseph Breedlove III; his sister, Lizzie Maye Farr; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

The family would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the nurses and staff of Emerson on Harvest Hill, Carrara Rehabilitation Center, Hillcrest of North Dallas, Medical City Dallas, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Plano, and Faith Presbyterian Hospice Care of T. Boone Pickens Center.

In lieu of flowers, to support scholarship funding for deserving students, memorial donations can be made to the following:

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, 11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas, Texas 75243
Omega Psi Phi Theta Alpha Foundation, P.O. Box 227083, Dallas, Texas 75222 or Zelle to tafjdallas@gmail.com.



Jaime Mason is treated at home. He was one of Dr. Larry Lundy's many house call patients.

Photo: David Woo/Dallas Morning News



A youthful Dr. Larry Lundy tends to his patient.

Photo: David Woo/Dallas Morning News

calls her daughter, Norma, as she explained that as a senior citizen, foot care was a treat for her mother.

"Because of her age and occupation, wear and tear to her feet was hard to avoid," explained Norma. "She stood on her feet all day working in a beauty shop in North Dallas, so she looked forward to going up on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to visit Dr. Lundy's office."

According to Norma, when her mother returned home to their house in the South Dallas/Fair Park neighborhood known as Lincoln Manor near Bexar St., the comforting smile on her face was very noticeable.

"As her daughter, I will always remember Dr. Lundy and what his skill and treatment meant to my mother," she said, adding that he had the same caring relationship with so many others of her age in the community.

He was born Willie Larry Lundy in

After graduating from Knoxville College in 1952, he was accepted to the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine where he earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree in 1956.

Excited about working as a podiatrist, Dr. Lundy did his residency in Chicago where he also met his wife, Mary. In 1960, the young couple moved to Cleveland, OH, where Dr. Lundy set up his podiatry practice and their son and daughter were born.

He became a clinical instructor at the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine teaching podiatry students.

In 1969, Dr. Lundy was recruited to be the first African American ambulatory foot surgeon in Dallas, TX. He purchased a home in Hamilton Park and joined the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church where he was an active member and served in

eral hospitals, including Forest Avenue Hospital which was among the first Black-owned hospitals in Dallas, St. Paul Medical Center, and Methodist Hospital in Oak Cliff.

He was also known to make house calls and visit nursing homes to care for his senior patients.

His legacy of care went well beyond his tireless medical work. The Lundy home in Cleveland and Dallas was a place where family members could stay as they started their careers.

Dr. Lundy was also involved in the Dallas community where he supported organizations including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, the Dallas Black Chamber of Com-

merce, the Cotton Bowl Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Pythias Federal Credit Union, Park South Family YMCA, Moorland YMCA, and the NAACP (lifetime member).

Throughout the years, Dr. Lundy received numerous awards and recognition for his business accomplishments and community service. Some of his accolades included Podiatrist of the Year from the Dallas County Podiatric Medical Association, the Dallas Black Chamber Quest for Success Award honoring entrepreneurs, the NAACP Juanita Craft Award, and Honorary Grand Marshall of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade.

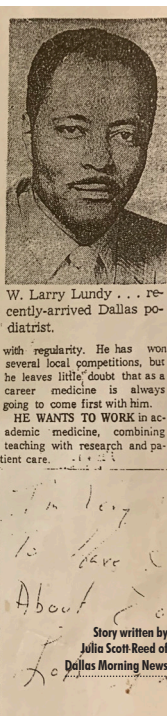
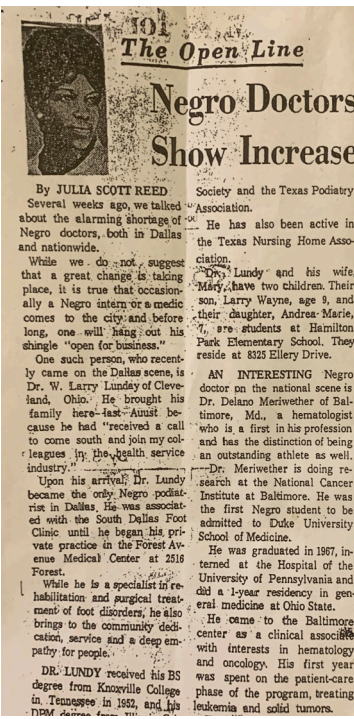
He also helped start several businesses, including one of the first Black banks in Dallas (Sunbelt National Bank) and Lim's Cafeteria.

Rev. Dr. Sheron Patterson is retiring this year as Senior Pastor at Hamilton Park UMC, and she says she was honored to be his pastor.

"Dr. Lundy was a pioneer physician who opened doors for many," she said. "Even though I met him late in his life, Dr. Lundy took care of his body and as a result, he was still touching his toes right up to the end."

She, like so many, has fond memories of the doctor.

Dr. Lundy loved to work out and believed in staying fit and healthy. He



W. Larry Lundy... recently-arrived Dallas podiatrist.

Trinity Links' annual Diamonds and Sneakers Gala an overwhelming Success



SHE IS AWARDS

"SHE IS AWARDS"...97.9 The Beat & Magic 94.5 saluting the Women of DFW -- Outstanding Business Professionals & Trendsetters in Entrepreneurship, Emerging Star, Trailblazer, The Arts & Fashion, Health & Beauty, & Social Advocacy.



Photos: Eva D. Coleman



Photos: Stew D'Que Curet



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Michael Palmer



Roosevelt Vaughn, Jr.



Dr. Jennifer Wimbish

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Dr. Harry Robinson Jr.

TRAILBLAZER



Norma Adams-Wade

April 6, 2024

12:00 PM

Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas Ballroom, 400 Olive Street, Dallas TX

For tickets and more information about this event, visit www.aeahp.org

A portion of the proceeds from this event go to scholarships for high school and college students. Donations are tax-deductible.

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