

“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

~ Angelou Maya



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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 31

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 11 - 17, 2024

Beyoncé's “Cowboy Carter” Gallops to No. 1, Making History on Billboard 200 Music Chart

By Stacy Brown



Beyoncé has once again proven her dominance in the music industry as her latest album, “Cowboy Carter,” rides triumphantly to the top of the Billboard 200 chart. Released on March 29, the album’s debut at No. 1 marks a stellar achievement for the superstar and stands as the highest-selling album of 2024 thus far.

With an impressive 407,000 equivalent album units, “Cowboy Carter” secures Beyoncé’s eighth chart-topping album, solidifying her status as a musical

powerhouse. Fans and critics alike said the remarkable feat reflects her artistry’s enduring appeal and influence.

With her latest achievement, Beyoncé becomes the first Black woman to debut at No. 1 on the Top Country Albums chart, highlighting her groundbreaking impact across genres and the album’s wide-ranging appeal that resonates with audiences worldwide.

Streaming counted as pivotal in “Cowboy Carter’s”

Continue **Cowboy** Page 5

President Biden Unveils Sweeping Student Loan Relief Plans, Targeting Racial Disparities

By Stacy M. Brown

President Joe Biden has announced comprehensive plans to provide substantial relief to borrowers, particularly those from marginalized communities disproportionately burdened by debt. The proposed measures, announced on Monday, April 8, would represent a significant step towards making higher education more accessible and equitable for millions of Americans.

Despite Republican opposition and a previous rejection by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Biden-Harris administration is implementing yet another round of student loan forgiveness measures.

Since taking office, the Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized reforming the federal student loan program, focusing on easing borrowers’ financial burdens. The administration has already approved debt cancellation for 4 million borrowers, offering them much-

needed breathing room and economic mobility.

White House officials say that the newly unveiled plans build upon these efforts and are expected to provide relief to over 30 million borrowers, combined with previous actions taken by the administration. One of the central aims of the proposals is to address the disproportionate debt burden borne by communities of color, mainly Black and Latino borrowers.

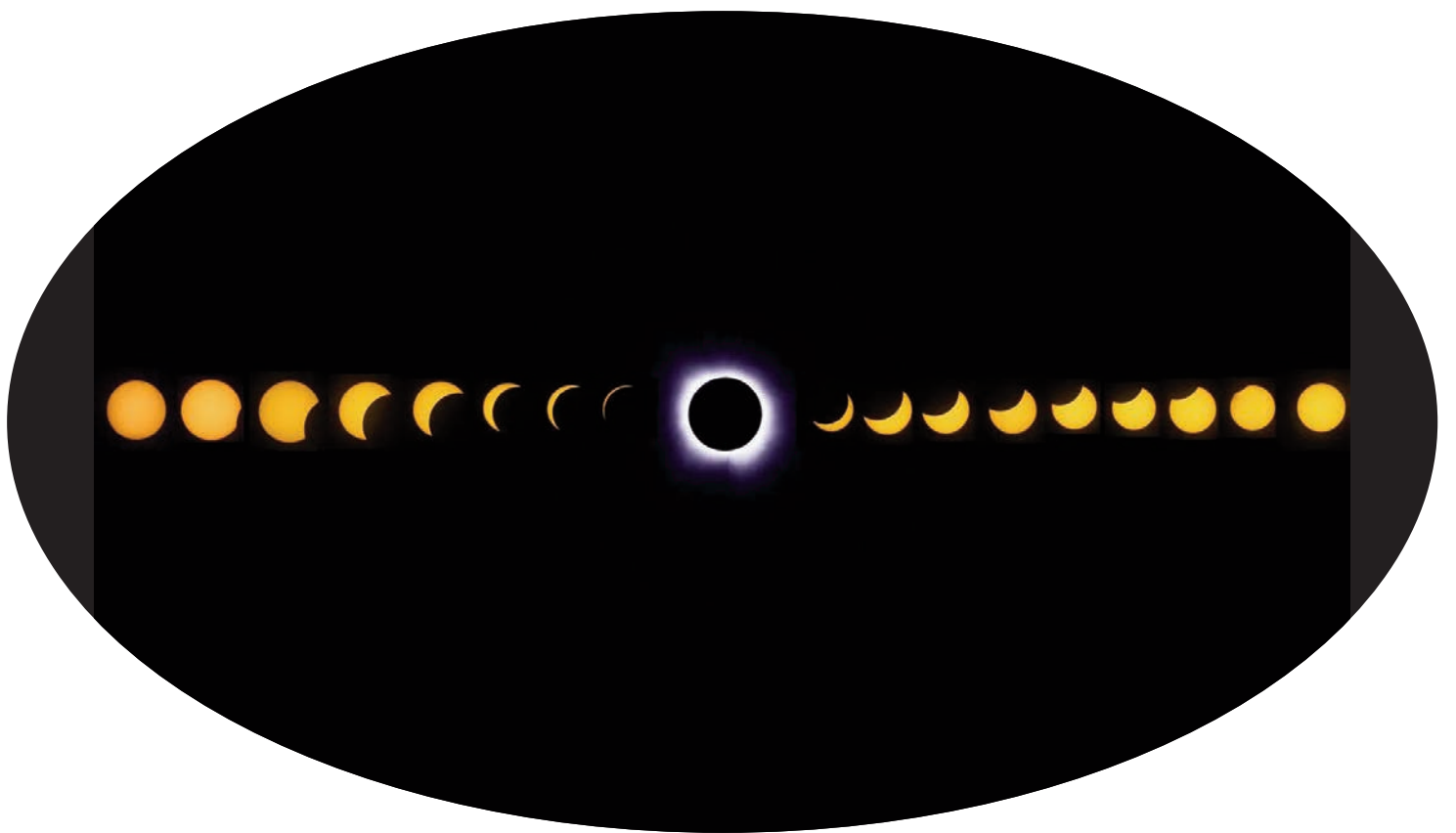
Statistics reveal stark racial disparities within the student loan system. Black and Latino borrowers, who are more likely to take on student loans to afford a college education, often find themselves saddled with higher levels of debt compared to their white counterparts. According to a White House Fact Sheet, 20 years after enrolling in college, the typical Black borrower from the 1995–96 school year still

Continue **Biden** Page 2

PHOTOS: Clouds break just in time for many in Texas to view eclipse

In some parts of the state, the skies cleared enough for people to see the total solar eclipse.

BY ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ AND POOJA SALHOTRA/Texas Tribune



A composite image showing different stages of the total solar eclipse photographed at Cooper Lake State Park on April 8, 2024. Photo Credit: **Maria Crane**/The Texas Tribune

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2024/04/08/texas-solar-eclipse/">

CELESTE — The clouds disappeared, opening the sky. Then, a curtain of darkness settled in as the moon completely covered the sun, creating a shimmering halo. And a crowd of about 50

eager onlookers at The Nature Conservancy’s Clymer Meadow Preserve erupted with cheers once the eclipse reached its peak of totality on Monday.

Attendees took off their glasses to admire the sight as the sky turned pink and purple like an early sunset. One child pointed with excitement as Jupiter and Venus

became visible.

Truett Cates, 77, from Sherman said, “Hurray for the sun!” and then tears formed in his eyes. For three minutes and 39 seconds, he and the others at this North Texas nature preserve viewed the eclipse in awe. Cates had organized his family reunion around the eclipse; many cousins and

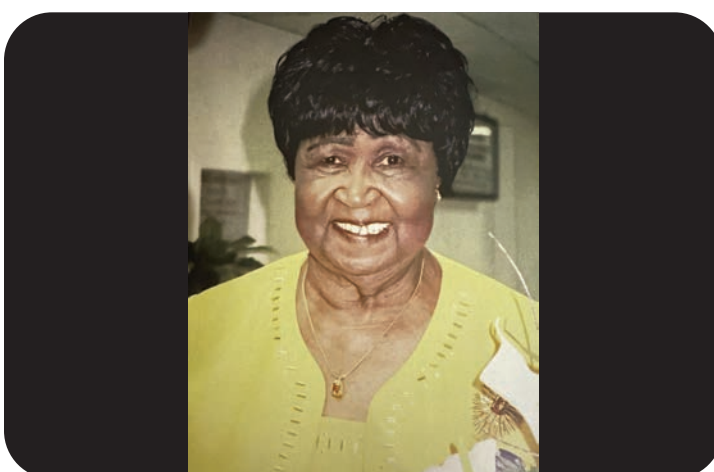
siblings had traveled in from Florida, New Jersey and California.

Hours earlier, when clouds blanketed the sky and blocked the sun, Cates’ brother-in-law Russell Johnson said, “I don’t care if it rains. Whatever happens with the eclipse, it’s been a

Continue **Eclipse** Page 2

Countdown to Mother's Day My Days Remembered:

By Dr. J. Ester Davis (esterdavis2000@gmail.com)



Doretta Lawrence. Died at 86 Years of Age. She was the Mother of 9.

My Favorite Story: Doretta Lawrence and her family lived quietly and happily on Exline Street in South Dallas. She was widely known at church, school, and in several communities. There were always children there to play with.

There was an unwritten law on that street: "Street Closed: Children at Play"..... obeyed by all.

If you have an exceptional woman to highlight on this legendary subject, send me an excellent picture, contact info, and a favorite moment/story.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Women's History Is Not Over, Just The Month

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

President Jimmy Carter in February 1980 issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity according to reports. It honors the extraordinary achievements of women.

A report in 2023 showed women made up 41.9% of the workforce and 32.2% in senior leadership positions.

Women comprise 74% of all teachers. There are over 3,842,796 teachers in

the United States of America. Teaching careers have been one of the most rewarding as teachers are able to shape the minds of future generations.

I will never forget my teachers at St. Benedict The Moor Elementary School in Winston-Salem NC as they were all women.

My high school and college years were fulfilling because of women like Dr. Manderline Scales and Dr. Maxine Scott.

In my opinion, it is impossible to keep Women's History Month within the month of March. Celebrations and commemorations must occur throughout the year.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have benefited

greatly from having African American female presidents. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune Cookman College (now University) in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1904.

The record shows that Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy (Johnson C. Smith University), Dr. Ruth Simmons (Brown University and Prairie View A&M University), Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan (Tougaloo College), and Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins (Bennett College) were college presidents and served with distinction.

The mantle of leadership has now been given to new college and university female presidents. Dr. Valerie Kinloch (Johnson C. Smith University), Dr. Rochelle Ford (Dillard University), Dr. Lori S White (DePauw University), and Dr. Helene D. Gayle (Spelman College) are becoming trailblazers at their respective institutions.

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Selling vendors i.e. candles, jewelry, oils and scents
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Contact us at 214-670-5418 or visit dallasmlkcenter.com for more information.



Continued Eclipse Page 1

wonderful family experience and I'm willing to take whatever Mother Nature will give us."

Luckily for them and thousands of people across Texas who had spent days laser-focused on a weather forecast that predicted cloud cover over most of the eclipse's path across the state, the clouds broke up just a little in many places before the celestial experience, allowing at least a partial view of the eclipse.

According to NASA, a solar eclipse like this year's won't happen again for another 20 years. The buildup to the

eclipse had many small town leaders across the street nervous about massive crowds and traffic. Multiple Central Texas counties declared local disasters in order to control people moving in and out of their areas and more easily tap into state resources.

In Texas, the eclipse's path of totality began in Eagle Pass around 12:10 p.m. and ended at Texarkana around 3:06 p.m. Visitors from other parts of Texas, other states and other nations joined many of the 12.8 million Texans (according to the state comptroller's office) who live in that path to stare at the sky. Many

school districts closed for the event.

In Eagle Pass, Jessica Alcalá, 41, embraced her 7-year-old daughter Ava tightly as the eclipse approached totality at 1:27 p.m. Her son, JJ, burst with excitement while Alcalá shed tears of joy. The eclipse lasted four minutes and 24 seconds.

"We were amazed," she said. "It was unlike anything I'd ever seen before — unbelievable. I'm still at a loss for words."

Alcalá expressed pride that her hometown was the first U.S. city to witness the eclipse. She said scientists from outside the area visited to see the spectacle. She said

she appreciated the non-immigration-related news coverage, believing it showcased Eagle Pass in a different light.

"There's more to our city than just immigration," she said.

But the weather didn't cooperate everywhere, and many people didn't get to see the eclipse because of cloud cover.

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Continued Biden Page 1

owed a staggering 95% of their original debt.

Under the new plans, the administration wants to extend relief to borrowers facing various financial challenges, including those who owe more than their initial loan amount due to accrued interest, individuals eligible for loan forgiveness who have yet to apply, and borrowers experiencing hardship in repayment. Additionally, the proposals would offer debt cancellation for borrowers who entered repayment decades ago and assist those enrolled in low-financial-value programs.

Community college bor-

rowers, who represent a significant portion of the student population, would also benefit from the administration's initiatives. The Biden-Harris administration's SAVE Plan, which aims to make community college more affordable, projects that 85% of community college borrowers could be debt-free within ten years. However, Latino students comprise a substantial proportion of community college enrollees and need help completing their degrees and repaying loans.

White House officials said, overall, the administration's plans signal a concerted effort to tackle the student loan crisis and address systemic inequalities within

the higher education system. They said the proposals aim to foster greater economic opportunity and advancement for all Americans by providing targeted relief to communities disproportionately affected by student debt.

"These historic steps reflect President Biden's determination that we cannot allow student debt to leave students worse off than before they went to college," U.S. Undersecretary of Education James Kvaal said in a statement.

Kvaal added that Biden had directed the department "to complete these programs as quickly as possible, and we are going to do just that."

Indogen Portable Oxygen advertisement with image of a person using the device.

BCI Bath & Shower advertisement for a walk-in shower unit.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Motive and Conduct of a Man of God I Thessalonians 2:1-20

PART I



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this chapter, Paul's critics were at their best. There are those who are always trying to undermine the good that you are doing. Paul had his critics during his lifetime, and so do we! The two main charges against this grand apostle were unworthy motives and questionable behavior. These same two charges are basically the ones that our critics are discussing about us, even more so as the Lord is progressing our ministries. Some critics are constantly resisting the advancements in our ministries, and they will do anything to attempt to destroy the credibility and integrity of the minister which God is using at the time.

As we related in our last article, the great Apostle Paul really cherished this church. The believers were "living out the gospel message" to such an extent that everyone in their region and beyond heard about their new-found faith. What a marvelous church! Our text I Thessalonians 2:1-20 may be outlined as follows: I. Paul's Ministry Being

Scrutinized - I Thessalonians 2:1-12; II. Paul's Ministry Involving Suffering - I Thessalonians 2:13-20.

1 Paul's Ministry Being Scrutinized - I Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now, in Chapter 2, their spiritual father in the faith, the Apostle Paul, was greatly criticized for having unfit motives and unsound behavior as an apostle. Paul will defend himself by stating that his ministry among them produced results - that is, it resulted in the transformation of lives (v.1). He was not in the ministry for any glory because in Philippi he was "shamefully treated" (v.2), for he was imprisoned with Silas, but God brought about their release (Acts 16). He left Philippi and came to Thessalonica, and after three Sabbath days, he had to leave these believers prematurely because of a riot that broke out in the city. He went on to Berea, and the same Jews that dogged his trial in Thessalonica

gave him problems in Berea. He left Berea and came to Athens, where he came into contact with the philosophers there.

Everywhere Paul placed his feet on the soil of Europe, he was constantly combating those forces that didn't receive the gospel message. Paul claims that he was not in the ministry for the glory of it because his ministry was one of suffering (v. 2). Then, Paul defends his message by stating that it was not of "deceit." In other words, it was an errorless message - based solely on the truth. In this verse (v. 3), he also argues that his motives were worthy, for he uses the expression "nor of uncleanness." He goes on to say that his dealings among them were honest, for he uses the expression "nor of guile" (v. 3).

In essence, Paul stresses that there weren't any underhanded methods he employed, but he was sincere as he ministered to them. Under such tremendous attack from his critics, Paul steadfastly defended

himself, never thinking about renouncing the gospel message that he preached. Certainly, preaching the gospel message with sincerity will cause the messenger much pain, but he cannot refuse to preach it because of opposition from critics. He must continue to preach the gospel despite being severely attacked by others. God will give you the boldness to withstand your critics! Moreover, Paul stated in verse 4 that God has authorized him to carry the gospel message and that he was not trying to get applause from men. He was not "pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." In the final analysis, God is the one who will examine our motives and conduct as we minister before people. At best, He is the best judge at analyzing a man's motive and conduct.

As has been discussed, there are those who are always trying to examine our motives and conduct, and Paul could relate with assurance that his actions among them could be recalled by the believers in

Thessalonica and God himself. Both his motives and conduct were pure (v. 1-4). They (Paul and his associates, Timothy and Silas) did not allow the persecution they were experiencing to deter them from preaching God's word.

In verse 5, Paul relates that his message to them was not to gain some favor and that he himself was not acting out of deceit but that God had witnessed his motives. These workers of God were not grasping for praise from men but solely wanted to please God (v.6). As Paul and his associates ministered among the believers, they personally nourished the believers, and they didn't charge them for their ministry. They had a right as ministers to expect something, but they didn't charge this infant church (v.7).

In verse 8, Paul states that he and his cohorts ministered out of a great sense of admiration, willing to share the gospel and give unselfishly to the believers. Paul goes on to maintain that he ministered to these

believers by not asking them for financial support but working himself, both day and night (v. 9).

Paul had a right to ask of them to furnish his needs, but he didn't. In verse 10, Paul now calls on God and the believers to testify to the purity of his actions among them. Their behavior was holy, with their behavior measuring what God expected of them (justly), and their behavior stood the test of their opponents' comments (unblameable). Having given the example of how his conduct among them was like a nursing mother in verse 7, Paul, in verse 11, will liken his deportment to them as an instructing father, with the training consisting of being exhorted, encouraged, and charged. As infant believers, they needed to be encouraged, comforted, and urged to go on in their Christian faith. Finally, Paul calls upon them to live worthy lives, knowing that they had been called by God to do so (v. 12).

"May God Bless!"

On April 13, National Building Black Wealth Day: Helping More Than 100,000 Black Consumers Become Homeowners and Build Wealth

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) collaborates with the Church of God In Christ, Inc. (COGIC) and other partner organizations to host National Building Black

Wealth Day on April 13. In more than 100 cities across the United States, seminars and one-on-one sessions will empower communities with steps towards homeownership, property investment, starting a busi-

ness, free credit bureau reports, and other wealth-building opportunities.

The local wealth-building events will coincide with COGIC's Presiding Bishop's 100-City Community Impact Day. Other NAREB partners include the African American Mayors Association, the National Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

At the local events, one-on-one counseling will be available with NAREB members (Realtists), lawyers, housing counselors, and lenders. The HUD-approved NID Housing Counseling Agency will provide free credit reports and counseling to consumers in all 100 cities on April 13, Building

Black Wealth Day. The goal of the event is to give Black residents the information they need to build wealth and get answers to questions like how to buy a home. How do you deal with property after the death of a loved one? How to improve your credit score?

Moreover, virtual sessions, counseling, and online conversations will be accessible to a national audience through our virtual community day via Zoom. Please register for those HERE.

"We are thrilled to coordinate with our partners," said Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose, NAREB's President. She added that National Building Black Wealth Day is part of the organization's historic Building Black Wealth Tour initiative, hosting wealth-building events

in cities throughout the country over the next two years.

Calling the nation's wealth gap "intolerable," Dr. Rose noted that NAREB's 2023 State of Housing in Black America Report (SHIBA) found that the 400 wealthiest Americans control the same wealth as all 48 million Blacks in the United States. The Federal Reserve acknowledges that, on average, Black families own about 24 cents for every \$1 of White family wealth. And Brookings, the widely respected think-tank, says Whites have a median family wealth of \$171,000, compared to \$17,600 for Blacks.

Homeownership is the primary driver of Black wealth, and a Fannie Mae survey found that 89% of all Black renters intend to own

a home in the future.

Clearly, potential Black home buyers need accurate information: 45% of Black consumers do not know how much down payment is required for a home, according to Fannie Mae's 2023 Black Housing Journey. In addition to lower average credit scores and fewer available funds, many Black consumers are also generally unfamiliar with mortgage requirements and may be harmed by that lack of knowledge. When Blacks are surveyed, many erroneously blame credit scores for their mortgage denials, but HMDA data show high debt-to-income ratios as the leading culprit.

Register for a local event in your area or for the virtual community day via zoom at www.NareBlackWealthTour.com

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Parkland takes action to combat maternal syphilis crisis in Dallas

During STI Awareness Month experts are responding to community needs, reducing stigmas

DALLAS – According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 2.5 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States in 2022. In response to this alarming trend, Parkland Health has launched a series of initiatives aimed at curbing the spread of these sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and raising awareness about the importance of STI screenings.

April is STI Awareness Month, but Parkland offers testing, treatment and STI education year-round throughout our health system, including at our 16 Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) health centers and through our Access to Care & Coverage Program, which brings Parkland to a neighborhood near you.

Reported cases of syphilis and gonorrhea have increased every year in Dallas County since 2015, according to data published in the 2022 Dallas County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Dallas County recorded more than 3,000 cases of syphilis and more than 10,000 cases of gonorrhea in 2020. Although slightly down from the year prior, more than 17,000 cases of chlamydia were still reported in 2020 and 688 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in Dallas County as well.

Nationally, syphilis rates have reached unprecedented levels unseen since 1950 and the medical community has sounded the alarm on the dangers posed by this preventable infection – particularly for pregnant women and their unborn children. Maternal syphilis can lead to

devastating consequences, including stillbirths, neonatal deaths and severe health complications for infants.

Emily Adhikari, MD, Director of Perinatal Infectious Diseases for Parkland Health, underscored the urgency of addressing this public health crisis locally. “Syphilis poses significant risks to both maternal and fetal health. It is critical that pregnant women receive timely screenings and treatment to prevent transmission to their babies,” she said.

Parkland’s initiatives focus on expanding access to STI testing and treatment services, particularly targeting pregnant women and high-risk populations. Through educational campaigns and partnerships with community partners, Parkland aims to increase awareness about syphilis and

other STIs as well as encourage early detection through regular screenings.

“These initiatives are crucial in our efforts to combat the spread of syphilis and protect the health of mothers and their babies here in our community,” said Dr. Adhikari, who is also an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. “By promoting STI awareness and education and providing accessible health-care services, we can prevent unnecessary suffering and save lives.”

The importance of STI screenings is key in treating this public health crisis, as early detection allows for timely intervention, treatment, and prevention of transmission. Parkland’s

Continue Crisis Page 5

Quinn Minute

A salute to my dentists

By Rix Quinn

Every morning, when my mirror smiles back, I am grateful to two dentists who have helped me for decades.

They must be darn good because, thanks to regular visits, I’ve retained excellent cuspids, bicuspid, plus a host of workable molars.

I am not the best patient. I nearly always brush my teeth at least once daily and sometimes use toothpaste.

But I am an excellent flosser. The hygienist complimented me on the last visit when she dug junk

food from my molars.

Over the years, dentists have worked miracles on two upper front incisors. I call these my “smile teeth.” Those are the first things people see when I greet them with a semi-sincere grin.

The problem is, in high school, I was in a car wreck. Back then, there were no shoulder seat belts, so my front teeth slammed into the dashboard.

This left me with half an incisor...very noticeable when sipping a milkshake. But my amazing dentist

quickly made me a crown, so I looked presentable enough to pose for senior pictures.

That crown held up for over 35 years, but it came off a few years ago when I bit into a sturdy dinner roll. My dentist got me scheduled late that day and crafted a new crown that looks terrific.

Since then, I have taken much better care of my mouth. I bought a new toothbrush, and I have spent more time polishing my ivories.

And some mornings

after brushing, I’m so impressed that I think that if I were single...I would ask myself for a date.

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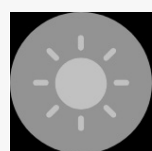
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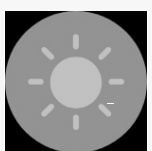
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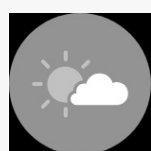
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L - 56°

Saturday, Apr. 13



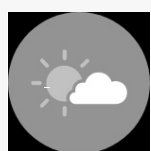
H - 81°
L - 67°

Sunday, Apr. 14



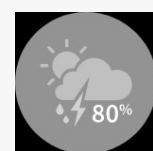
H - 83°
L - 71°

Monday, Apr. 15



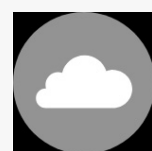
H - 79°
L - 67°

Tuesday, Apr. 16



H - 84°
L - 68°

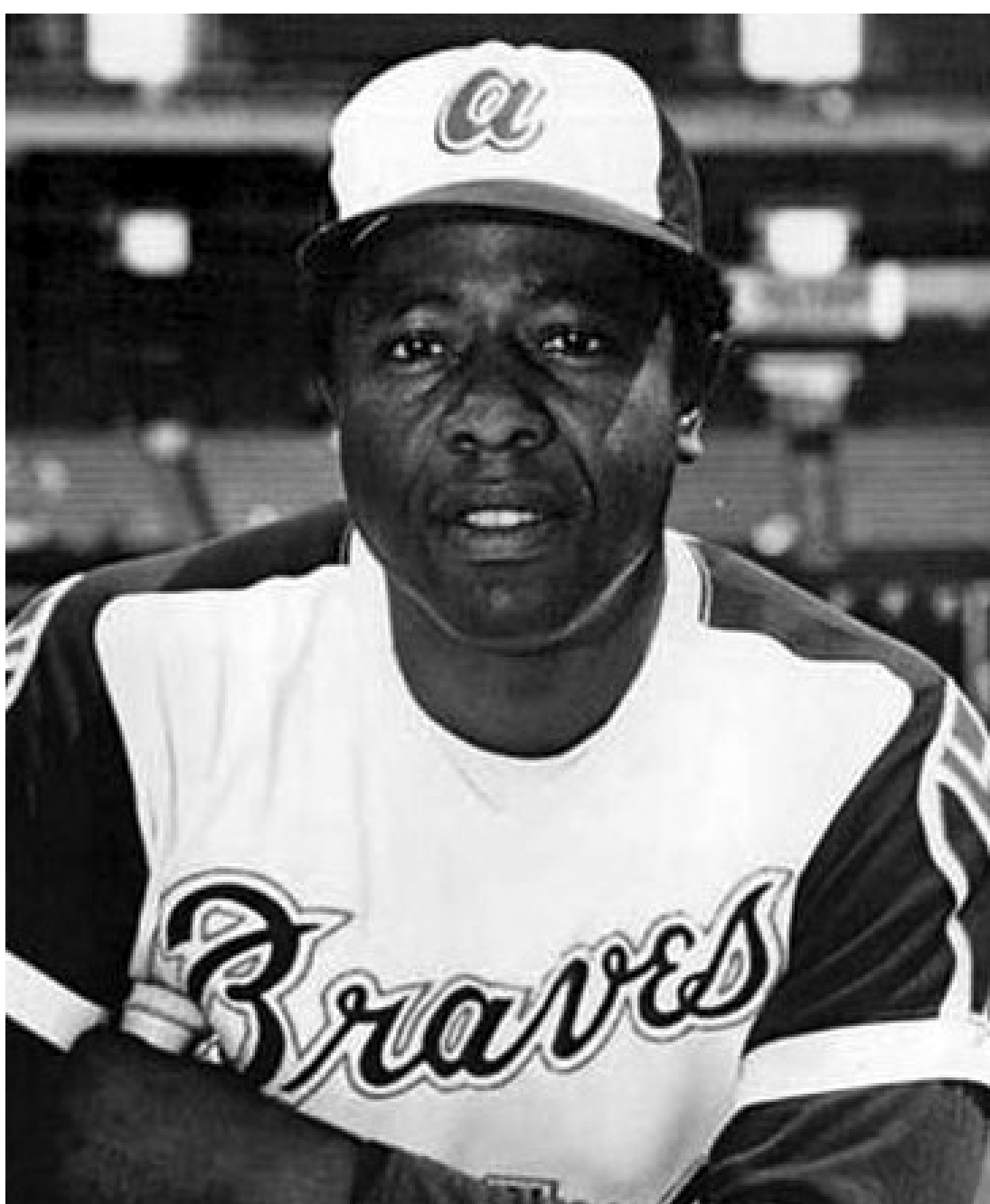
Wednesday, Apr. 17



H - 82°
L - 68°

Baseball Hall of Fame to Honor Hank Aaron with Statue Unveiling; U.S. Postal Service to Issue Commemorative Stamp

By Stacy M. Brown



Fifty years ago, the sports world watched in awe as Hank Aaron shattered baseball's most hallowed record, cementing his place as one of the game's greatest legends. To celebrate the anniversary of that historic moment, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum plans to immortalize Aaron's legacy with a monumental tribute.

In conjunction with the opening events for the new exhibit, "More Than Brave: The Life of Henry Aaron," at the Atlanta History Center, Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark announced plans to unveil a bronze statue of Aaron at the National Baseball Hall of

Fame in Cooperstown on May 23. The statue honors Aaron's remarkable contributions both on and off the field.

"Hank Aaron's impact transcended the game of baseball," Clark stated. "His philanthropy, advocacy for youth empowerment, and trailblazing achievements as an executive have left an indelible mark on society. We are privileged to safeguard his legacy and are honored to unveil this statue as a lasting tribute to an American hero."

Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1982 after a 23-year career with the Braves and Brewers, Aaron's legacy extends far beyond his monumental 715th career

home run, which surpassed Babe Ruth's record on April 8, 1974. A 25-time All-Star, Aaron still holds records for the most career RBIs and total bases.

Just how good was Aaron? Even if all his 755 career home runs were removed from the record books, he would still boast over 3,000 hits. The slugger, who died in 2021, made the All-Star team 25 times, established a record with 2,297 RBIs, 1,477 extra-base hits, and 6,856 total bases.

Officials displayed Aaron's Hall of Fame plaque during a Truist Park ceremony before this week's Atlanta Braves game against the New York Mets.

The statue's creation was made possible through a generous gift from supporters Jane and Bob Crotty, with the guidance and approval of Aaron's widow, Billye. The statue will debut during the Hall of Fame Classic celebration over Memorial Day Weekend, coinciding with the May 25 Legends game featuring numerous former big leaguers at Cooperstown's Doubleday Field.

"Henry would be as thrilled as I am to see his statue at the National Baseball Hall of Fame," expressed Billye Aaron. "His life embodied hope and perseverance, inspiring generations to pursue their dreams despite obstacles. This tribute is a testament to his love for the game and his desire to inspire young boys and girls everywhere."

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has remained dedicated to preserving Aaron's legacy, including the exhibit "Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream," unveiled in 2009. Additionally, Aaron pledged his entire personal collection to the Museum in 2010, with many artifacts now on loan to various exhibitions, including the one at the Atlanta History Center.

The U.S. Postal Service announced that it will issue a commemorative Forever stamp to celebrate Aaron's life and career further. The stamp art will feature a digital painting of Aaron as a member of the Braves, with the selvahe showcasing him watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974.

USPS said in a statement, "The selvahe showcases a digital painting of Aaron watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974."

Trump Doubles Down on Racist Remarks, Advocates for White Immigration Only

By Stacy M. Brown

Former President Donald Trump has reignited controversy with inflammatory remarks suggesting a preference for immigrants from predominantly white nations while denigrating those from Latin America and primarily Black nations. At a private event, Trump reportedly joked about welcoming immigrants from "nice" countries like Denmark, Switzerland, and Norway, again demonstrating his racial bias in immigration policy.

Trump's comments, revealed by New York Times correspondent and CNN analyst Maggie Haberman, highlight a troubling stance on immigration that aligns with his past rhetoric. The twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president's insinuation that only immigrants from certain nations are desirable for entry into the United States drew swift condemnation from the Biden-Harris campaign.

"[The comments] are alarming," said James Singer, a spokesperson for the Biden-Harris campaign. Singer also noted how Trump has repeatedly praised dictators and declared he'd be a dictator

on day one if he's re-elected. Trump's campaign declined to comment about what the presumptive GOP nominee said at the private dinner.

"Why can't we allow people to come in from nice countries, I'm trying to be nice," Trump reportedly said. "Nice countries, you know, like Denmark, Switzerland? Do we have any people coming in from Denmark? How about Switzerland? How about Norway?"

In addition to his discriminatory remarks, Trump blasted Latin American immigrants, likening them to notorious gang members. Critics have said such language perpetuates harmful stereotypes and exacerbates divisions within society.

Further, Trump's speculations about the future of American democracy have raised alarms. Suggesting that the 2024 election could be the last one in the country's history, Trump's comments continue his concerning trend of authoritarian rhetoric that undermines democratic norms.

"This could very well be the last election this country ever has," Trump said,

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Continued **Cowboy** Page 1

triumph, with 232,000 units attributed to streaming equivalent albums. This marks Beyoncé's most significant streaming week ever, demonstrating her ability to captivate audiences across digital platforms.

In addition to digital success, the impact of "Cowboy Carter" is felt in physical sales, with traditional album sales totaling 168,000 units. The album's limited edition vinyl releases also made a significant mark, selling 62,000 copies and claiming the title of the best-selling vinyl album of 2024, a testament to the enduring appeal of physical music.

Beyoncé's chart-topping prowess extends beyond "Cowboy Carter." She surpasses Janet Jackson to claim the fourth-most No. 1 albums among women on the Billboard 200, placing her alongside icons such as Madonna and Barbra Streisand.

"Cowboy Carter" represents the second chapter of Beyoncé's ambitious "Renaissance" trilogy proj-

ect, a musical journey that intrigues with its diverse array of collaborators and musical influences. The album's thematic depth and sonic innovation resonate with fans and critics alike, solidifying Beyoncé's status as a visionary artist.

Reflecting on the album's inspiration, Beyoncé recently recounted her journey to embrace the country music genre. "Cowboy Carter was born out of an experience that I had years ago where I did not feel welcomed," Beyoncé wrote on Instagram regarding her 2016 performance at the Country Music Association Awards, where backlash on social media was immediate and drenched in racial overtones.

"But, because of that experience, I did a deeper dive into the history of country music and studied our rich musical archive. It feels good to see how music can unite so many people around the world, while also amplifying the voices of some of the people who have dedicated so much of their lives to educating on our musical history."

Continue **Crisis** Page 4

comprehensive approach underscores the vital role healthcare institutions play in empowering community members to take control of their sexual wellness.

Additionally, having an STI can increase your chances of acquiring HIV, according to Helen King,

MD, Infectious Diseases Service Chief at Parkland Health and Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

"Anyone who is sexually active should know their options to prevent STIs and HIV, including testing, condoms, and

PrEP, the medication that prevents HIV," Dr. King said.

On Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Parkland will partner with Dallas County Health and Human Services to offer free syphilis and HIV testing, immunizations, medical screenings, other lab testing and a host of health education

resources at the Owenwood Farm and Neighbor Space Spring Festival.

For more information on the CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance report, visit www.cdc.gov/std. For more information about Parkland services, visit www.parklandhealth.org.

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Legal Legend Honored

By Joseph Green-Bishop
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Bobbie Edmonds and Judge Christine Stetson

Judge L. Clifford Davis, who successfully sued the Mansfield and Fort Worth, Texas school districts in 1955, was proclaimed a “Texas Legal Legend” by the Texas State Bar Association at a ceremony held Monday at the Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth.

“The purpose of this recognition is to memorialize the stories of legendary

lawyers who have practiced in Texas,” said Federal Judge Christine Stetson, who presented the award to Judge Davis, who will celebrate his one-hundredth birthday on October 12th.

“Judge Davis is one of the finest lawyers and legal scholars to have ever practiced law in our state and our country, said Michael Heiskell, the president of the National Criminal

Defense Lawyers Association, who shared a law practice with Judge Davis in North Texas.

A graduate of Howard University Law School, Judge Davis, a native of Arkansas, founded one of the first Black law practices in Texas. Among the legal scholars he regularly worked with was former U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood

Marshall.

Exactly one after the U. S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* ruled separate but equal schools unconstitutional, Judge Davis filed successful discrimination lawsuits against two North Texas School Districts.

“My law practice and my life have been inspired and enhanced by Judge Davis, said Bobbie Edmonds, a North Texas attorney who has written a biography about Judge Davis, a member of Saint Andrews United Methodist Church in Fort Worth.

“I believe that life requires all of us to pursue justice, equality, and fairness for all people without regard to race, gender, or status,” Judge said after the sixty-minute ceremony.

“We all must work for the general welfare of people,” he told the nearly one hundred people attending the ceremony sponsored by the Texas A&M University School of Law.

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Continued **Racist** Page 5

echoing sentiments often heard at his rallies.

Trump’s engagement with billionaire backers on taxation matters has further highlighted con-

cerns about cronyism and inequality. By prioritizing tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy, opponents said Trump’s policies perpetuate economic disparities and favor the interests of the elite.

