



“I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross and exchange it one day for a CROWN.”



# The Dallas Post Tribune

2726 S. Beckley Ave • Dallas, Texas 75224  
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ISSN # 0746-7303

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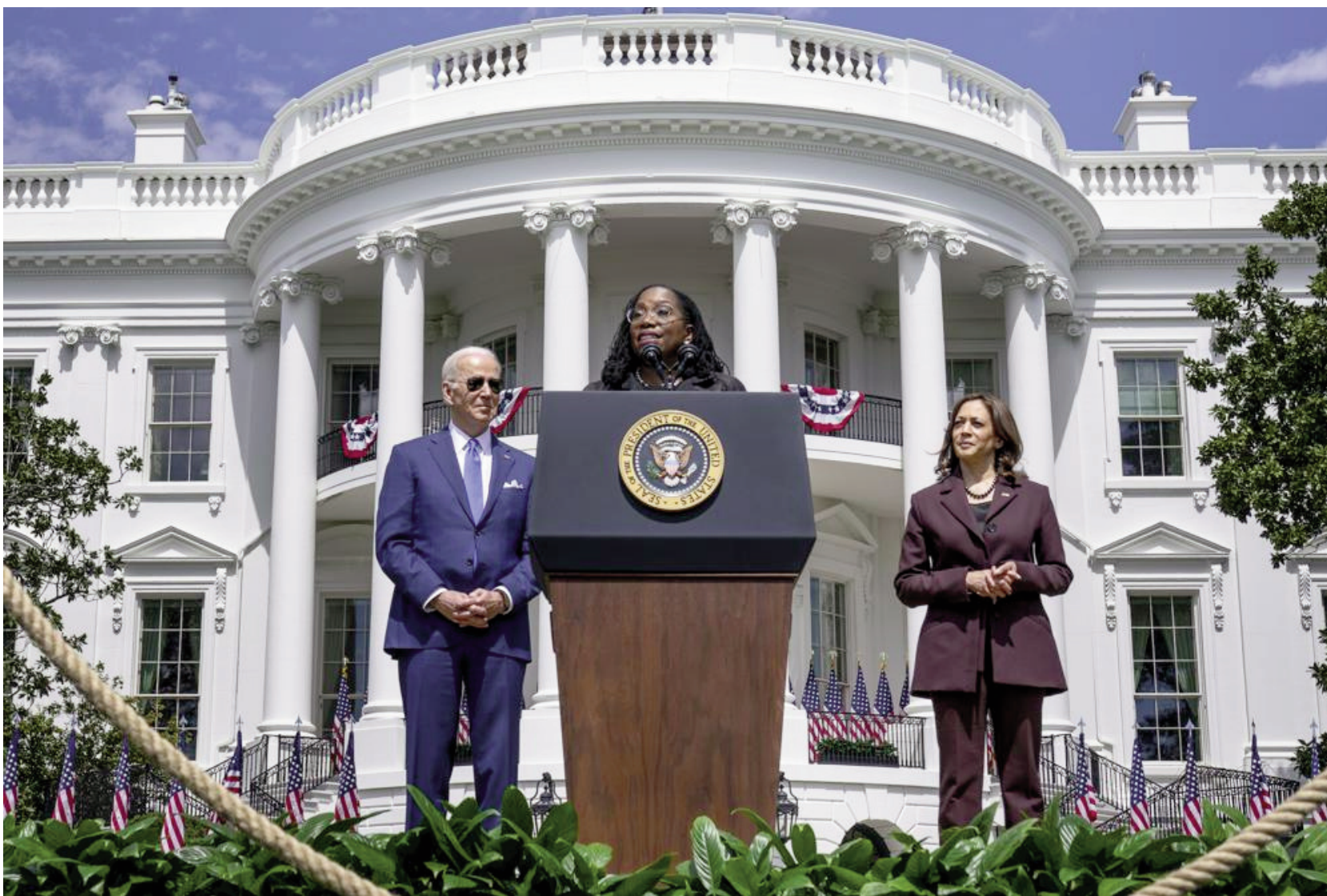
VOLUME 74 NUMBER 31

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 14 - 20, 2022

# Jackson's speech highlights US race struggles, progress

By AARON MORRISON



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, accompanied by President Joe Biden, and Vice President Kamala Harris, speaks during an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, April 8, 2022, celebrating the confirmation of Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

“In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States.”

With those words, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson acknowledged both the struggles and progress of Black Americans in her lifetime.

Her words, delivered from the South Lawn of the White House on Friday, one day after her historic Senate confirmation, were a tribute to generations of Black Americans who she said paved the way for her elevation to the nation's highest court.

“I have now achieved something far beyond anything my grandparents could have possibly ever imag-

ined,” Jackson said, noting they had gained only grade school educations before starting their family and later sending their children to racially segregated schools.

The path was cleared for me, so that I might rise to this occasion,” she said. “And in the poetic words of Dr. Maya Angelou, I do so now.”

Quoting Angelou's famous poem, “And Still I Rise,” Jackson added: “I am the dream and the hope of the slave.”

Nina Turner, a former Ohio state senator who was a prominent surrogate for Bernie Sanders' 2020 Democratic presidential

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Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's husband Dr. Patrick Jackson, right, and daughters Leila Jackson, second from right, and Talia Jackson, second from left, arrive on the South Lawn of the White House where President Joe Biden, accompanied by Vice President Kamala Harris and Judge Jackson, will speak and celebrate the confirmation of Judge Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court, Friday, April 8, 2022 in Washington. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

*Filed in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the suit described the school's scheme to lure Black and female students into their Doctor of Business Administration.*

By **Stacy M. Brown**  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

According to an explosive lawsuit and news report, Walden University, a popular online and for-profit institu-

tion, misrepresented the costs and credits required for an advanced degree and engaged in “reverse redlining” by targeting minority communities.

First reported by the New York Times, the university boasted that its students could earn an advanced degree in 18 months.

But the Washington, D.C.-based National Student Defense Network countered in a lawsuit that Walden

Continue **Walden** Page 4

## Frustration grows over truck backlogs at Texas Mexico border

By PAUL J. WEBER

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — One of the busiest trade ports on the U.S.-Mexico border remained closed Tuesday as frustration and traffic snarls mounted over new orders by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott requiring extra inspections of commercial trucks as part of the Republican's sprawling border security operation.

Since Monday, Mexican truckers have blocked the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge in protest after Abbott last week directed state troopers to stop and inspect trucks coming into Texas. Unusually long backups — some lasting 12 hours or longer — have stacked up elsewhere along Texas' roughly 1,200-mile (1,930-kilometer) border.

Not even a week into the inspections, the Mexican government said Tuesday that Abbott's order was causing “serious damage” to trade, and that cross-border traffic had plummeted to a third of normal levels.

The gridlock is the fallout of an initiative that Abbott says is needed to curb human trafficking and the flow of drugs. But critics question how the inspections are

Continue **Border** Page 2

## Will Smith gets 10-year Oscars ban over Chris Rock slap

By ANDREW DALTON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The motion picture academy on Friday banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars or any other academy event for 10 years following his slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards.

The move comes after a meeting of the academy's Board of Governors to discuss a response to Smith's actions.

“The 94th Oscars were meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our community who did incredible work this

Continue **Slap** Page 6

## Students Sue Walden University Alleging Scheme to Defraud Black Women

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EDITORIAL PAGE

America Needs Humanitarian Relief, Too

By Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

It is a good thing that America has been a lead nation in both providing humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine. It is good that we as a nation, Democrat and Republican, have been able to unify on this most important issue facing the world. It is also a good thing that America has been able to give hundreds of millions of doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine to struggling third world countries where people are waiting in lines while Americans refuse vaccinations for all kinds of reasons.

But while all of this is a good thing, let us not forget the looming crisis ahead of us. The fact is that the virus, with its ever increasing mutations, is not over. There are still over 750 people dying daily from this virus even though hospital rates and the daily death rates are down from what they were just months ago. Infection

cases are up across the country with some states experiencing higher rates than others and a number of cities like Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. have had to reinstate their mask mandates.

In the midst of the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, the new surge in infections across the country, and continued death rates, the United States Congress refused to pass a 22 billion dollar funding bill to continue testing, vaccinations, and the funding for Covid-19 related supplies before adjourning for the Easter/Spring Recess. Much of the opposition, again, is coming from the (Russian-like) Republican Party not only denying and refusing to support and vote for such funds, but also leaving out much needed continuation dollars for programs to feed the hungry.

This pull back on funds for testing and vaccinations is also impacting those American companies that geared up to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the height of the pandemic when supplies were no longer available from our foreign sources. Now, with this cutback in federal funds, many of these companies are on the verge of going out of business because America is withdrawing the very funds that allowed hospitals and others to purchase the PPE items they were able to buy until this cut-off.

How can we find billions of dollars to support all elements of the Ukraine Humanitarian crisis, but not have money for our own people here at home? Those Americans who are still unvaccinated, and mainly by choice, still represent a threat to the rest of us. The government's dis-



Dr. John E. Warren

tribution of personal testing kits cannot become a substitute for providing the kind of care and supplies that have allowed us to avoid millions of additional deaths because, at the time, we funded the very things we are now threatening to withhold. Let us not forget the saying "Charity starts at home and then spreads abroad".

Mr. President, Members of Congress, America is "home".

Let's not create another humanitarian crisis here because of party politics.

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meeting that objective, while business owners and experts complain of financial losses and warn U.S. grocery shoppers could notice shortages as soon as this week.

Frustration is also spreading within members of Abbott's own party: Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, a Republican, called the inspections a "catastrophic policy" that is forcing

some trucks to reroute hundreds of miles to Arizona.

"I do describe it as a crisis, because this is not the normal way of doing business," said Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez, whose county includes the bridge in Pharr. "You're talking about billions of dollars. When you stop that process, I mean, there are many, many, many, many people that are affected."

Continued Speech Page 1

campaign, said Jackson's speech was an awe-inspiring reminder of how far Black Americans have come amid their ongoing struggle.

"Expressing that realization out loud for all of the world to hear, as she is about to take her place as the first Black woman Supreme Court justice, was just magnificent," said Turner.

"It is vitally important that we, as Black people, continue to remind this nation from whence we came," she said. "The pain that it took to get to a 'Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson' could not be understated."

Jackson, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, said that she has been lucky on her path to the high court. Although her arrival breaks one of the remaining racial barriers in American democracy, many Black Americans still struggle to surmount systemic blocks.

She namechecked the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights icon, as well as Black federal judicial trailblazers such as Justice Thurgood Marshall and Judge Constance Baker Motley, thanking them for their lead-

ership and role modeling.

"For all of the talk of this historic nomination and now confirmation, I think of them as the true path breakers," Jackson said. "I'm just the very lucky first inheritor of the dream of liberty and justice for all."

Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable, watched Jackson's speech from the White House lawn as an invited guest on Friday. With the sun shining through clouds over Washington, there was a palpable joy in the crowd over what Jackson symbolizes for the country, she said.

"It just felt like the ancestors were dancing."

"I can see myself, in now-Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson," Campbell added. "(Jackson) understands the significance of this moment for Black women, for women, for the nation. And it is a game changer."

Others watching the speech also noted the diversity at the event and the image at the center — President Joe Biden flanked by the first Black female Supreme Court justice and the first Black and

The shutdowns and slowdowns have set off some of widest backlash to date of Abbott's multibillion-dollar border operation, which the two-term governor has made the cornerstone of his administration. Texas already has thousands of state troopers and National Guard members on the border and has converted prisons into jails for migrants arrested on state trespassing charges. Abbott warned last week

that inspections would "dramatically slow" border traffic, but he hasn't addressed the backups or port shutdowns since then. His office didn't reply to a message seeking comment left Tuesday. T

The disruptions at some of the world's busiest international trade ports could pose economic and political threats to Abbott, who is

Continue Border Page 4



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson tears up as she speaks during an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, celebrating the confirmation of Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Asian American vice president.

Just before Vice President Kamala Harris introduced the president, she gushed over what Jackson's confirmation will one day mean to her young, Black goddaughter.

"When I presided over the Senate confirmation vote yesterday, while I was sitting there, I drafted a note to my goddaughter," Harris said. "I told her that I felt such a deep sense of pride and joy about what this moment means for our nation and for her future."

Speaking directly to Jackson, Harris added: "And I will tell you, her braids are

just a little longer than yours."

Although the occasion will be noted in history books as a symbol of racial progress, Turner said Jackson's elevation to the Supreme Court should be celebrated by Americans of all races and creeds.

"Not only should the entire Black community be proud, the entire country should be proud because this has certainly been a long time coming," she said. "And from this victory, we certainly have an opportunity to continue to build and create more victories. We're not done yet."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and LIRA Group Present
'A Magnificent Mom's Day Experience'
Saturday, May 7, 2022
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2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216  
P. 214-371-2024



Pastor Daryl R. Carter

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Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
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**True Lee Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.**

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
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6000 Singing Hills Drive  
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Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips Jr.

Email address [stphillipsmbc@att.net](mailto:stphillipsmbc@att.net)

**Schedule of Activities**

**Sunday**

Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.  
Church School 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.



**The Mount Mariah Missionary Baptist Church**  
3611 Latimer Street  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
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[www.mountmariahdallas.org](http://www.mountmariahdallas.org)

**Sunday**  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Prayer Bible Fellowship 7:00 p.m.



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**Sammie Berry**  
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**Calendar of Events**

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**Sunday Worship**  
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**Wednesday Bible Class**  
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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**  
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.  
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

## "SAUL'S DRAMATIC DAMASCUS ROAD EXPERIENCE"

Acts 9: 1-9

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



The young man about whom Dr. Luke's Acts presentation focuses in on is a young man by the name of Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus is a Greco-Roman city in Asia Minor. Saul whose name was changed to Paul (Acts 13:9) was a Roman citizen and grew up as a zealous Pharisee (Acts 23:6). He was a strict follower of Judaism, dedicating himself to preserving the faith of his fathers. Accordingly, Saul was first mentioned in Acts as a young man at whose feet Stephen's executioners laid

their outer garments (Acts 7:58). Later, it was brought out that Paul approved of Stephen's death (Acts 8:1). At the point of our text in verses 1 and 2, Paul's determined character was seen in his efforts in persecuting the followers of Christianity, for he had secured letters from the high priest authorizing himself to arrest the believers in the synagogues of Damascus Syria. Saul intensely hated Christianity and those "of the way" (Christians). Saul definitely

had a hatred and fury for the disciples of Jesus Christ. Saul's intent was to stamp out the Christian movement by bringing the disciples of Jesus Christ bound to Jerusalem to stand trial and to be punished with whatever sentences the Sanhedrin imposed. As Saul and his companions made their journey from Jerusalem to Damascus, a journey of about 150 miles, and before they reached their destination, Saul was arrested by a brilliant light from heaven. As Saul descended to the

earth, a voice spoke: "Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?" This striking question stresses the fact that when he was also persecuting Christ! Although Saul had not done any harm personally to Jesus of Nazareth, he was harming Christ as he persecuted His disciples (Matthew 25:41-45). As believers, we must be awfully careful in how we treat one another. Not really certain who was addressing him, Saul asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" (v. 5). He went on to relate to Saul these

words: "it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." In Christ's use of this expression, what did He mean by pricks? Pricks were referred to as sticks with sharp points designed to goad animals. Thus, when an animal resisted such goading, it was bringing injury only to itself. Saul was under heavy conviction and he attempted to suppress the goading of his conscience by engaging in acts of hatred to followers of Christ. Having had this dramatic encounter with the Divine Sheriff of Heaven, Saul responded by saying, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (v. 6). Paul certainly came to the realization that the Lord he had so greatly maligned was the exalted Lord! The Lord had really humbled Saul in his encounter on the Damascus Road, for Saul came to the awareness that He is Sovereign. From Acts

chapter 9:6-9, Paul was told to enter the city and await further instruction. The companions who led Saul knew that something momentous had occurred on the Damascus Road, for Saul was now blind, going without food and water for three days (vv. 8-9). What a dramatic change had been wrought in the life of a man who once hated the Christian movement. He once hated others, now he had to be helped. God changed Saul from being a fierce persecutor to a persistent proclaimer of the gospel. Saul would later understand that promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ involves suffering. God certainly transformed Saul from being a fierce persecutor to a firm proclaimer of the gospel. God can truly transform you, can't He?

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### Council Member Adam Bazaldua statement on passage of pedestrian bridge benefiting Joppa community

The Dallas City Council Wednesday approved a \$1.12 million engineering contract for the future pedestrian bridge into the Joppa community, along with improvements to Carbondale Street and its connection to Great Trinity Forest Way. Engineering is anticipated to be substantially complete at the end of 2023, with construction commencing soon thereafter. Council Member Adam Bazaldua released the following statement after

Continue Joppa Page 5

Continued **Walden** Page 1

schemed to lure Black female students into their school and trap them in a never-ending cycle of debt. The 15,743 Black female students represent the university's most significant demographic. The university boasts over 49,000 students. Student Defense Network and D.C.-based Relman Colfax PLLC filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court on April 11 alleging that Walden University engaged in fraudulent business practices, costing former students more than \$28 million in overpaid tuition. Filed in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the suit described the school's scheme to lure Black and female students into their Doctor of Business Administration. The school allegedly provided false program requirements, then compelled students to complete more credit hours than initially advertised. "I feel like Walden intentionally misled me for their own gain, and I want them to be held accountable," Aljanal Carroll, one plaintiff, said.

"They promised me their program would change my life, and it did, but not for the better. I hope this lawsuit helps ensure Walden can't take advantage of other students in the future as they did with me." According to the Student Defense Network, the plaintiffs "are seeking a judgment against Walden that affirms the school violated consumer protection and Civil Rights laws such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. The students seek damages and financial relief to compensate for tuition payments." "Walden targeted Black and female students with the promise of an affordable doctoral program. It broke that promise by dragging out their dissertation process, at significant cost to students who had no choice but to keep spending money if they wanted the degree they had worked so hard for," added Student Defense President Aaron Ament. "We're committed to ensuring Walden pays for their wrongdoings and is prevented from causing similar harm to other students in the future." "Far from creating educa-

tional and career opportunities for Black and female students, who are underrepresented in graduate business programs, Walden traps them in a fraudulent and predatory scheme and, for many, significant student debt," Milton stated. Aljanal Carroll, Claudia Provost Charles, and Tiffany Fair are the students headlining the legal action. Carroll, 49, sought a doctorate in business administration when she enrolled at Walden in 2017. She said school officials promised she could complete her doctoral degree within 18 months. The North Carolina resident said she efficiently completed her coursework until officials provided a "capstone project." She said a review committee stalled in delivering feedback, which amounted to a couple of minor grammatical and formatting fixes. But, for each fix, Carroll said it would take the committee weeks to respond. Finally, three years and tens of thousands of dollars in tuition costs later, Carroll realized the ruse. "It started to make me feel like I couldn't write or speak, which didn't make

sense because I'd just earned a 4.0 for my master's," Carroll told the Times. "I knew it didn't seem right, but I was so far in it, I couldn't turn back." The suit alleges that Walden enticed students by promoting false and misleading course requirements, then required them to complete substantial additional coursework — dozens of credit hours in some cases — beyond what the school initially advertised to students. "The school reaped the financial gain from this scheme, stringing along students who were already deeply invested in their degree plan knowing they'd likely take the additional courses in hopes of finishing," attorneys wrote in court filings. They noted that Walden targeted and disproportionately hurt Black and female students with their "malicious practices." "In 2016, 41 percent of students across Walden's doctoral programs identified as Black — more than seven times the national average of Black students enrolled in doctoral coursework. In addition, nearly 77 percent identified as female," the attorneys contended.

Continued **Border** Page 2

seeking a third term in November. Democrat Beto O'Rourke, the former presidential candidate who is running against Abbott for governor, said during a stop in Pharr on Tuesday that the inspections were doing nothing to halt the flow of migrants and were worsening supply chain issues. He was joined by Joe Arevalo, owner of Keystone Cold, a cold-storage warehouse on the border. He said that although Texas state troopers have always inspected some trucks crossing the border "they've never, ever, ever held up a complete system or a complete supply chain." An estimated 3,000 trucks cross the Pharr bridge on a normal day, according to the National Freight Transportation Chamber.

The Pharr bridge is the largest land port for produce, such as leafy green vegetables, entering the U.S. Mexico supplies about two-thirds of the produce sold in Texas. "We're living through a nightmare, and we're already suffering through a very delicate supply chain from the pandemic and to try to regrow the business," Arevalo said. The additional inspections are conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which said that as of Monday, it had inspected more than 3,400 commercial vehicles and placed more than 800 "out of service" for violations that included defective brakes, tires and lighting. It made no mention of whether the truck inspections had turned up migrants or drugs.

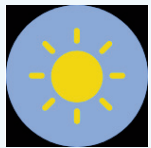
The order's impact quickly spread beyond Texas: U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials confirmed Tuesday that there was another blockade at the Mexican customs facility at the Santa Teresa port of entry in southern New Mexico, not far from El Paso. Those protests are misguided since New Mexico has nothing to do with Texas' inspection policies, said Jerry Pacheco, executive director of the International Business Accelerator and president of the Border Industrial Association. He said the protests were costing businesses millions of dollars a day. "Everybody down here is on a just-in-time inventory system," Pacheco said. "It's going to affect all of us, all of us in the United States. Your car parts are going to

be delivered late, your computer — if you ordered a Dell or HP tablet, those are going to be disrupted." Ed Anderson, a professor at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, compared the disruptions to those caused by February's trucker blockade in Canada that forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production. During that protest, trucks looking for other entries to cross into the U.S. wound up causing congestion at other bridges, a scenario that Anderson said might now be repeated on the southern border. Anderson said consumers would likely begin noticing the effects by the end of this week, if not sooner. "Either prices are going to spike or shelves are going to be low," he said.

# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Apr. 14



H - 78°  
L - 59°

Friday, Apr. 15



H - 82°  
L - 69°

Saturday, Apr. 16



H - 85°  
L - 65°

Sunday, Apr. 17



H - 84°  
L - 61°

Monday, Apr. 18



H - 72°  
L - 49°

Tuesday, Apr. 19



H - 65°  
L - 50°

Wednesday, Apr. 20



H - 76°  
L - 56°

## Serena Williams' Message to Medical Professionals: Listen to Black Women

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Each year in the United States, about 700 people die during pregnancy or the year after.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another 50,000 people each year have unexpected labor and delivery outcomes with serious short- or long-term health consequences.

"Every pregnancy-related death is tragic, especially because two in three of them are preventable," the CDC said as the nation observes Black Maternal Health Week through April 17.

For tennis superstar Serena Williams, giving birth to her baby, it turned out, was a test for how loud and how often she would have to call out before finally being heard.

Williams penned an essay for Elle Magazine's April issue, in which she recounted her reckoning that proved once again that Black women remain three times more likely to die after childbirth than white women.

She said she was almost one of them.

"I've suffered every injury imaginable, and I know my body," Williams writes in the deeply personal essay, later adding: "Giving birth to my baby, it turned out, was a test for how loud and how often I would have to call out before I was finally heard."

As Williams recounts, she had a "wonderful pregnancy" with her first child, Alexis Olympia, and even her epidural-free delivery was going well—at first.



For tennis superstar Serena Williams, giving birth to her baby, it turned out, was a test for how loud and how often she would have to call out before finally being heard.

"By the next morning, the contractions were coming harder and faster. With each one, my baby's heart rate plummeted. I was scared," the 23-time Grand Slam winner wrote.

"Every time the baby's heart rate dropped, the nurses would come in and tell me to turn onto my side. The baby's heart rate would go back up, and everything seemed fine. Then, I'd have another contraction, and baby's heart rate would drop again, but I'd turn over, and the rate would go back up, and so on and so forth."

The CDC noted significant disparities in the

birthing experience of Black women in its most recent report.

The agency noted that Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.

The agency said multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias.

The CDC added that social determinants of health prevent many people from racial and ethnic minority groups from having fair economic, physical, and emo-

tional health opportunities.

After an emergency C-section, Williams gave birth to her daughter, Alexis.

Afterward, she said she had to fight for her life.

Already classified as a high risk for blood clots, Williams inquired whether she should receive heparin, a blood thinner.

"The response was, 'Well, we don't really know if that's what you need to be on right now,'" Williams wrote.

"No one was really listening to what I was saying."

Despite excruciating pain, Williams continued to speak out to her health care providers.

At one point, she felt paralyzed.

"I couldn't move at all," she recounted.

Aching and coughing to the point where her C-section stitches burst, Williams complained that she couldn't breathe.

Four surgeries later, doctors discovered a blood clot in one of her arteries, a hematoma in her abdomen, and other clots.

She said the nurse she had previously spoken with told her that the medicine was making her crazy. Had she gone along with the nurse's assertions, Williams could have died.

"Being heard and appropriately treated was the difference between life or death for me," Williams asserted. "I know those statistics would be different if the medical establishment listened to every Black woman's experience."

## Parkland Health providers spread awareness on Black Maternal Health Week

'We still have some work to do,' says Parkland provider on maternal mortality

DALLAS — Maternal mortality rates across the country are among the highest in the developed world, and recent data from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) show that Black, American Indian and Alaska Native mothers die from a pregnancy-related cause at two to three times the rate of white women. Parkland Health providers are addressing this issue by educating pregnant mothers about the importance of post-pregnancy primary care follow-up appointments and encouraging self-care and awareness.

In Texas, the CDC found that the maternal mortality rate is above the U.S. average, at 18.5 deaths per 100,000 live births. Nationwide, between 2014-2017 the pregnancy-related mortality ratios were 41.7 deaths per 100,000 live births for Black women compared to 13.4 deaths for white women and 11.6 deaths for Hispanic women. A pregnancy-related death is defined as the death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

"We're starting to see some improvement in Texas, however the maternal mortality rate among Black women is worse than that of white or non-Black Hispanics, which tells us more needs to be done by the entire community to protect our mamas. We still have some work to do," said Marjorie Quint-Bouzid, MPA, RN, NEA, BC, Parkland's Senior Vice President for Women & Infant's Specialty Health.

April 11-17 is designated as Black Maternal Health Week, an annual event recognized by the White House on April 13, 2021, to bring attention and action in improving Black maternal health. With Black women in Texas experiencing a much higher maternal mortality rate than other races, Parkland providers continue to educate the community about maternal health and provide information about available resources in Dallas County.

"Parkland has implemented several programs to address food insecurity, housing needs, and transportation needs following the 2019 Community Health

Needs Assessment," said Quint-Bouzid. "We've also increased the number of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and extended maternal care to designated at-risk moms with a pre-existing medical condition that predisposes them to maternal mortality."

According to the CDC, in the United States during 2014-2017 the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths were caused by cardiovascular conditions. Other leading causes of death included infections and cardiomyopathy. Using data from the CHNA, the health system developed the Extending Maternal Care After Pregnancy (eMCAP) program. Implemented on Oct. 1, 2020, the program is designed to offer health services to designated at-risk women of color in the first year after giving birth.

"We need about three years to measure the progress of the program, but we've enrolled more than 2,456 women," said Quint-Bouzid. "At this time, we have been able to provide a virtual nurse home visit to about 80% of these mothers to do an assessment and refer them for additional support and services. We also know about 70% of them immediately identified a need after delivery. Of those, 54% were healthcare needs such as a primary care follow-up. Around 21% were behavior health/substance abuse needs, 14% were transportation needs, and 11% were dental and eye care needs."

Part of the process is to also help women navigate systems of care to get those needs met including scheduling appointments, maintaining insurance coverage, obtaining infant care supplies, and helping with transportation, Quint-Bouzid noted.

Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs) can also lead to maternal deaths. PMADs are distressing feelings that occur during pregnancy and throughout the first year after pregnancy.

Black mothers are more likely to suffer from PMADs in silence and without clinical help. Many factors may play a role in why mothers don't begin or continue treatment, according to Jeanette Dominguez, LPC-S, Lead Mental Health Counselor at Parkland Health.

"Getting treatment for Continue Health Page 6

Continued passage of pedestrian bridge benefiting Joppa community  
Page 4

passage of the projects: "This project will greatly improve connectivity to the Joppa neighborhood, improving public safety and access for all modes of travel," Bazaldua said. "This is an enormous step towards delivering a long-promised project to the people of Joppa. My hope is that this sends a clear and resounding message to Joppa that the City is committed to serving them — and all communities throughout Dallas."

APRIL 15 MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

## Are you at risk?

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for African American and Hispanic populations. Having high blood pressure significantly increases your risk for heart disease.

Get your blood pressure checked at an Access to Care and Coverage community hub near you:

**Inspired Vision  
Compassion Center**  
2019 N. Masters Dr.,  
Dallas, 75217  
**Every Tuesday**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**John C. Phelps  
Recreation Center**  
3030 Tips Blvd.,  
Dallas, 75216  
**Every Thursday**  
3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Bonton Farms**  
6915 Bexar St.,  
Dallas, 75215  
**Every Friday**  
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Catholic Charities Santa  
Clara/Cardinal Farrell  
Community Center**  
321 Calumet Ave,  
Dallas, 75211  
**Every 1st and  
3rd Wednesday**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Janie C. Turner  
Recreation Center**  
6424 Elam Rd.,  
Dallas, 75217  
**Every 2nd and  
4th Wednesday**  
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, visit  
[www.parklandhealth.org/connect](http://www.parklandhealth.org/connect)




*You + 10*

You and 10 guests are invited to a  
*Virtual Fellowship*  
in celebration of Greenville Ave. CoC's  
*Thirty-Sixth Adolescent and Ladies Symposium*  
*The Power of Us: Sisters United in Service*

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
"Virtual" Style  
Register Online at [GACOC.org](http://GACOC.org)

Share This Personal Invite with 5 family members and 5 friends



Door Prizes \* Food for the Soul \* Fashion Show

# Nonprofit leaders tour Titché Elementary to see the transformational power of the ACE program

BY THE HUB



Photo Courtesy/THE HUB

Nonprofit leaders tour Titché Elementary to see the transformational power of the ACE program

As Damien Stovall walked the halls of Edward Titché Elementary School along with fellow education and nonprofit leaders, he reflected on the school's journey from a low-performing campus facing closure to a Blue Ribbon school.

Titché underwent a tremendous transformation starting in 2017 as part of the Accelerating Campus Excellence initiative, which incentivizes high-performing teachers and campus leaders to voluntarily work at low-performing schools. Stovall, who served as principal at Titché and is now an executive director, joined the current Titché principal, Jazmune Jenkins, in leading

a tour with the Commit Partnership to showcase how the school was transformed under the ACE program. Geoffrey Canada, of the Harlem Children's Zone and the philanthropic group Blue Meridian, joined the tour to see the transformational work firsthand.

Geoffrey Canada of Harlem Children's Zone sees learning in action at Titché Elementary.

"The fact that so many representatives from non-profits showed up to our campus means the world to us and to this community," Principal Jenkins said. "We work so hard for our students, and they deserve to be recognized for the hard work that they put in every day. It was just great to showcase all the systems and the processes through ACE that we've been able

to accomplish that have led to the student academic achievement."

Executive Director Damien Stovall and Principal Jazmune Jenkins

Stovall said the ACE program helped Titché change the school's culture and climate, which is vital for students to learn. He credited Principal Jenkins for continuing to build a leadership team that ensures the systems are in place to help students continue to succeed.

"Overall, it's great to see that programs like ACE are influential in our state and nationwide," Stovall said. "Students deserve this opportunity. It's great to see that we've proven that scholars can achieve with the right people and the right systems in front of them."

# CDC extends travel mask requirement to May 3 as COVID rises

By ZEKE MILLER and DAVID KOENIG

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it is extending the nationwide mask requirement for airplanes and public transit for 15 days as it monitors an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was extending the order, which was set to expire on April 18, until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant that is now responsible for the vast majority of cases in the U.S.

"In order to assess the potential impact the rise of cases has on severe disease, including hospitalizations and deaths, and health care system capacity, the CDC order will remain in place at this time," the agency said in a statement.

When the Transportation Security Administration, which enforces the rule for planes, buses, trains and transit hubs, extended the requirement last month, it

said the CDC had been hoping to roll out a more flexible masking strategy that would have replaced the nationwide requirement.

The mask mandate is the most visible vestige of government restrictions to control the pandemic, and possibly the most controversial. A surge of abusive and sometimes violent incidents on airplanes has been attributed mostly to disputes over mask-wearing.

Airlines have lobbied for months to kill the requirement, arguing that effective air filters on modern planes make transmission of the virus during a flight highly unlikely. Republicans in Congress also fought to kill the mandate.

"It is very difficult to understand why masks are still required on airplanes, but not needed in crowded bars and restaurants; in packed sports arenas; in schools full of children; or at large indoor political gatherings," Nicholas Calio,

the CEO of industry trade group Airlines for America, said Wednesday in a letter to the heads of the CDC and the Health and Human Services Department. "Simply put, an extension of the mask mandate does not make sense.

There has been a slight increase in cases in recent weeks, with daily confirmed cases nationwide rising from about 25,000 per day to more than 30,000. More than 85% of those cases are the highly contagious BA.2 strain. Those figures could be an undercount since many people now test positive on at-home tests that are not reported to public health agencies.

Severe illnesses and deaths tend to lag infections by several weeks. The CDC is awaiting indications of whether the increase in cases correlates to a rise in adverse outcomes before announcing a less restrictive mask policy for travel.

says it begins with a simple conversation.

"We have to engage Black women and get them involved in these programs," said Quint-Bouzid. "Pregnant women should also talk to their healthcare provider if anything doesn't feel right or is concerning. It's important to maintain ongoing healthcare and social support systems before, during, and after pregnancy."

For more information about Parkland, visit [www.parklandhealth.org](http://www.parklandhealth.org).

Contact: Brenda Rodriguez 469-419-4400, [Brenda.Rodriguez@phhs.org](mailto:Brenda.Rodriguez@phhs.org)

- Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Feelings of irritability or restlessness
- Loss of energy
- Problems concentrating, recalling details, and making decisions
- Difficulty falling asleep or sleeping too much
- Overeating or loss of appetite
- Suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts
- Aches or pains that do not get better with treatment

So, what can you do to help reduce Black maternal mortality? Quint-Bouzid

Continued **Health** Page 5

mental health during or after pregnancy is very important for the mother and the baby," said Dominguez. "Avoiding treatment can lead mothers to substance abuse, birth complications, or much worse, pregnancy-related death or suicide. PMADs may also cause problems with the baby in the long run, such as behavioral and cognitive development."

According to the CDC, symptoms of depression during pregnancy include:

- Having a lasting sad, anxious, or "empty" mood

## Continued Slap Page 1



Chris Rock appears at the the FX portion of the Television Critics Association Winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 9, 2020, left, and Will Smith appears at the 94th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Los Angeles on March 7, 2022. (AP Photo)

past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behavior we saw Mr. Smith exhibit on stage," the academy said in a statement.

"I accept and respect the Academy's decision," Smith said in response. He pre-emptively resigned from the academy last week during the run-up to the meeting, calling his actions "shocking, painful, and inexcusable."

Smith will keep the Oscar he won after the slap, and he will remain eligible to be nominated for and to

win more of them in the 10-year period, though he can't show up to accept them.

The academy also apologized for its handling of the situation and allowing Smith to stay and accept his best actor award for "King Richard."

"During our telecast, we did not adequately address the situation in the room. For this, we are sorry," the academy said. "This was an opportunity for us to set an example for our guests, viewers and our Academy family around the world, and we fell short — unprepared for the unprecedented."

ed." In a statement in the days following the Oscars, the academy said Smith was asked to leave the ceremony but refused.

But it's not clear how the message was delivered to Smith or what form it took, and several media outlets reported that he was never formally told to leave the Dolby Theatre. The Los Angeles Times reported in a story Thursday that Oscars producer Will Packer told Smith: "Officially, we don't want you to leave. We want you to stay."