Early Voting for Constitutional & Joint Election starts on Monday, April 25, and ends May 3, 2022. ~ See Page 2 for more information. ~



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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 33

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 28 - May 4, 2022

Many in Neighborhoods of Color are Breathing More Unhealthy Air Than Ever

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

According to a report published this week by the American Lung Association, almost half of Americans – 137 million people – are experiencing more days of "very unhealthy" and "hazardous" air quality than in the previous two decades combined.

The Lung Association's State of the Air report also revealed that 72 million people of color live in counties that received at least one failing grade for ozone and particle pollution.

More than 14 million dwell in areas where health officials doled out failing grades on all three measures.

The report looks at America's exposure to two types of air pollution: ozone, also called smog, and particle pollution, commonly called

The American Lung Association has issued the State of the Air for 23 years using data analyzed from official air quality monitors.

Officials have pushed the motto that the more you learn about the air you breathe, the more you can protect your health and take steps to make the air cleaner and healthier.

"We've seen much better air quality in most

Continue Air Page 4



The Lung Association's State of the Air report also revealed that 72 million people of color live in counties that received at least one failing grade for ozone and particle pollution.

City of **Dallas** celebrates Community **First** Homebuyers

DALLAS -- Dallas City Council Members Carolyn King Arnold, Casey Thomas and other local officials joined residents Tuesday to celebrate the first home and homeowner in the grassroots Community First Homebuyers Initiative.

The initiative aims to expand access to single family home ownership in District 4 and throughout Dallas by utilizing low-cost land, acquired through the City of Dallas' Land Bank Program, to build and sell affordable homes to prospective homebuyers in targeted ZIP codes.

"This development is the quintessential story of the southern sector's rebirth. Years of hard work, not only in Cedar Crest but throughout the City, made the day possible," said Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Director, David Noguera. "We've had many people at the City working diligently to identify and assemble vacant lots in various neighborhoods with the objective of returning that

Continue **Dallas** Page 4

OPINION: Alzheimer's Drugs Decision Has Deeper Impact on Health of Blacks, Other Minorities

By Isadore Hall



Among Americans 65 and older, Blacks have the highest percentage of Alzheimer's disease, 13.8%, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In fact, the Alzheimer's Association reports that older Blacks are twice as likely to have Alzheimer's disease than whites.

Last spring, the Food and ty of a medicine designed to Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first new Alzheimer's disease therapy since 2003. For the 6 million-plus people living with the fatal disease in the United States, the availabili-

treat the underlying cause of their ailment was a significant breakthrough.

However, it appears very few of those 6 million Alzheimer's patients will receive this promising new

treatment because of regulators at the Center for Medicaid Medicare & Services (CMS).

CMS is the federal government office that oversees health coverage of more than 100 million people through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. One of the agency's main functions is strengthening and modernizing the nation's health care system to provide access to high quality care at lower costs.

In January, CMS launched a process called a National Determination Coverage (NCD) to decide whether Medicare would pay for this newly approved Alzheimer's therapy or not. Their draft decision: Medicare, as the

Continue **Drugs** Page 5



For more information see Page 2

President Biden Announces Clemency and Pardons for 78 People, Details **New Steps for Criminal Justice Reform**

Administration officials signaled that the president would no longer wait on Congress for needed criminal justice reform.

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

President Joe Biden announced he's using his clemency powers for the first time, issuing commutations for 75 drug offenders.

Biden also issued three pardons, including to the first Black Secret Service agent to work on a presidential detail, who had long professed his innocence.

"Helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and

Continue **Reform** Page 6







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EDITORIAL PAGE

Women Find A Winning Solution In Dealing With Hair Loss

"Don't call your girlfriends or don't go to YouTube University. You need to go to someone with board certified credentials," stresses Dr. Amerson, adding that some of the warning signs that something is going on with your hair are: strains of hair on your vanity, substantial amounts of hair in your brush or strains of hair in the shower.

By Sylvia Dunnavant Hines



Jada Pinkett Smith AP Photo/**Chris Pizzello**, File

After Actor Will Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock during the Oscars for making a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head, one word was echoed around the world – alopecia.

rom break rooms to the morning talk shows, people were asking, "what is alope-

Even though many people in the nation had no idea what this word meant, according to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation this condition affects both sexes and all ethnic groups can develop alopecia areata.

"The definition of alopecia is hair loss from any cause. There are 100 different categories of alopecia," said Dr. Linda Amerson, PhD, IIT, Tect, CCHHP/Scalp Doctor and Holistic Health Practitioner; who also is the owner of LA's Hair and Scalp in Arlington, Texas.

Although people of all ages can develop alopecia, studies have shown that many people start to experience symptoms of this disease by the age of 30.

"Some of my younger clients are more concerned

with their physical image," said Dr. Amerson. "They may not be as conscious about trying to take care of their scalp. They tend to wear wigs or other things to cover up their hair loss.

"However, for those that are 40 or over, they are more concerned with the regrowth of their hair based on the damage that has been done. Their main concern tends to be if their hair loss is reversible or irreversible."

According the to American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), "Telogen effluvium is a type of alopecia where hair sheds in excess. It can happen suddenly, or hair can thin over time. Causes of telogen effluvium include medications, stress, childbirth, physical trauma, restrictive dieting, and life changes.

According to Amerson there are over 300 medications that have a side effect that causes alopecia.

"My alopecia started after my father died. I was washing my hair when I was getting ready for his funeral, then I noticed a hand full of hair in the sink," said Sebran Ferrell.

Ferrell admits that she was dealing with a perfect storm in her life before she diagnosed Alopecia Areota. Prior to her diagnosis her mother was sick, her father died, and she was experiencing some personal health issues.

"After seeking help from several professionals, I finally chose to go to a holistic function management doctor. I knew that I needed help getting my

insides under control as well. I was dealing with prediabetes, and a lot of other things that were going on with my body other than alopecia."

Alopecia Areata is a common autoimmune skin disease, causing hair loss on the scalp, face and sometimes on other areas of the body, according to AAD.

Carmen Anderson realized that she was dealing with hair loss after her beautician noticed some balding areas when she was washing her hair. This led Anderson to visit her doctor, who revealed that she had skin lupus.

After being diagnosed with lupus, Anderson experienced small bumps that began to itch. These bumps would show up anywhere on her body.

"When I first started dealing with my hair loss, I wore wigs. However, it took me a lot to get comfortable with wearing wigs, because they could come off. In the beginning, I did experience embarrassing moments when my wig came off unexpectedly," she said.

After dealing with alopecia for three years, Anderson is currently having injections that are causing her to see some hair regrowth.

Ferrell who tends to experience hair loss during the Spring of year has learned some work around to cover her baldness.

"Fortunately my hair is long enough that when I am in an outbreak, I can pull my hair back in a ponytail. However, I recently took a leap of faith and cut my hair into a shoulder length bob cut. This allows me to style it in a way that the hair loss isn't obvious," said Ferrell.

Tiyiesha Morgan, a hair loss practitioner, services clients in California and Texas. With over 6.8 million Americans dealing with hair loss, Morgan believes that hair loss is a silent epidemic.

"The main difference is that hair loss is unlike some other conditions, it affects your outer appearance. Women can go into depression and experience anxiety after dealing with the effects of hair loss," said Morgan.

Morgan also believes that there should be more research done on the impact of hair loss in African American Women. She supports recent efforts like those of Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who has alopecia, advocating for Medicare to cover the cost of wigs for those who have lost their hair from disease and treatment.

After dealing with alopecia. Ferrell admits that she has had her own personal awakening, "I used to think that my hair was my best quality. I now realize that you are not defined by your hair."

Although there is no cure for alopecia, some forms of the condition can reversible. Dr. Amerson recommends that women seek help as soon as they notice hair loss so that they can have the best possible outcome from the condition.

So for many, hair loss is no laughing matter.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Ride DART for Free to Vote in the **May 7 General Election**

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is providing free transportation to polling locations on the day of the Texas general election, May 7, 2022. Voters can ride at no charge on all DART buses, trains, the Dallas Streetcar, GoLink, Paratransit Services and the TRE between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Airport Station.

No proof of voter registration is required to ride for free on May 7. Riders can use promo code VOTE22 at checkout for a complimentary Adult Local Day Pass in the DART GoPass app on May 7. You can learn more at dart.org/vote.

How to Find a Voting Location

The State of Texas organizes election information and voting locations by county. Use the link listed for your county to find a convenient voting location.

Collin County Election

Information (Plano, Richardson, Carrollton) https://www.collincountytx.gov /elections/election_information/Pages/default.aspx

• Dallas County (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Rowlett, University Park)

https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/

 Denton County (Carrollton) https://www.votedenton.gov/ • Ellis County (Glenn

Heights) https://www.co.ellis.tx.us/312/E lections

 Rockwall County (Rowlett) https://www.rockwallvotes.com/

Voting locations are open at various times during early voting and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the Texas general election, May 7. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m. on election day, you will be allowed to vote. Check your county elections website for specific times.

Plan Your Trip on DART to a Voting Location

Riders who need customized trip planning can map out their ride with the "Plan" tool in the free GoPass app or use the Trip Planner

DART.org. DART Customer Service can also assist at 214-979-1111.

If you plan your trip directly in Google Maps, enter the voting location as your destination and choose the Transit option (train icon) to get travel directions using DART.

Church Directory

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2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216 P. 214-371-2024



Sunday School - 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.



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True Lee Missionary Baptist Church

3907-11 Bertrand Street Dallas, Texas 75210 P. 214-421-9435 F. 214-421-0324



Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Monday Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study Meeting

7:00 p.m. Radio Station Every Sunday @ 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

KPYK 1570 AM

Saint Phillips Missionary Baptist Church

6000 Singing Hills Drive Dallas, Texas 75241 P. 214-374-6631



Rev. Dr. C.J.R Phillips Jr. Email address 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.

Mount Moriah

3611 Latimer Street Dallas, Texas 75215 214-428-2990

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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7:00 p.m.

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Sammie Berry Minister

Calendar of Events Sunday Bible School 8:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Song Practice 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Class

9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Sunday Radio Broadcast 7:30 a.m. on 970 AM

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www.marsalisavenuecoc.org

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10:00 am

10:00 am

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Bible Class 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. ership Service

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Ben Myers Patrick Worthey Elders: Frederick Green Otis Idlebird, Jr.

David Phillips, Jr. Schedule of Services

Jason Moseley

SUNDAY

Early Worship 8:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. **Bible Classes** Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. **Bible Classes** 5:00 p.m.

Evening Worship WEDNESDAY **Devotional Service**

Bible Classes

7:00 p.m.

that will live godly in

Christ Jesus shall suffer

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

6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

"SAUL, A CHANGED MAN"

Acts 9: 19-31

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The same Saul who experienced a tremendous conversion on the Road to Damascus, now finds himself in conflict at Damascus for preaching Jesus (Acts 9:19-22). Saul had made such havoc in his intense persecution of the Saints until the Jews were awfully astonished that he had made such a dramatic change in now preaching Jesus (Acts 9:20-21). Not only did Saul preach that Jesus is the Son of God (v.20) but that He is the Messiah (v.22). On the dramatic Road to Damascus, Saul readily understood who Jesus is! Jesus Christ made

a remarkable impact on Saul's life, for truly Saul was a changed man

The Damascus Jews were bewildered in the changed behavior of a once violent persecutor, for now he has become an ardent proclaimer of the word. What an unusual change that has been wrought in the life of a once fierce persecutor of the Saints. He is now preaching Christ! Not only did Saul understand who Christ was on the Damascus Road, but he also understood that the ministry of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ will involve suffering (Acts

9:16). It is noteworthy that Saul knew who Jesus was, as he witnessed in the synagogues in Damascus. As believers in this age, in witnessing for Christ, we must know who Jesus is before we tell others about what He has done! I am so glad that someone told me that Jesus paid the full penalty of my sins; moreover the just died for the unjust, for 2 Corinthians 5:21, says: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Not only was Saul in conflict with the Jewish leaders as he preached Jesus (Acts 9:19-22) but the same leaders conspired or plotted to kill Saul (Acts 9:23-31). To escape their murderous attempt, Saul's followers lowered him in a basket over the wall. This same Saul who persecuted the Saints of God now finds himself in danger with the Jewish leaders. In Acts 9:26-31, having left Jerusalem initially in his efforts to persecute the Saints in Damascus, Saul went back to Jerusalem and now he is preaching Christ. Saul associates with the work in Jerusalem, but the Saints are afraid of him.

needed a friend in Damascus named Ananias; now Saul needs a friend name Barnabas to testify for him in Jerusalem. Thank God that Saul had a friend in Barnabas whose name means "son of consolation or encouragement." Barnabas persuaded the believers in Jerusalem that Saul indeed had been converted! Although Saul was in continual conflict with his enemies, he boldly spoke in the name of Jesus (v.29). Aided by some brethren, Saul was finally escorted to Caesarea and then sent to his hometown of Tarsus (v.30).In conclusion, as we

Because of his violent

behavior in the past, Saul

promote the name of Christ, we will encounter troubles, but the Lord will sustain us, for 2 Timothy 3:12, says:" Yea, and all

persecution." This same Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, admonished Timothy to remain steadfast in the ministry, as Paul's ministry was concluding, when he said: "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." Timothy 4:5-8).

May God Bless!



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News

Continued **Dallas** Page 1

land to productive use. With their kids and their kids. I this development, we are excited about offering the opportunity for more Community First & Black people to call Dallas home."

Community Homebuyers Initiative, Builder Black Island, LLC the homebuyer, Breanna Thomas, worked home.

place to live" Thomas said. helping me get a mortgage, the City of Dallas down payment assistance program and Black Island building such a beautiful home, I'm not sure how I would have been able to

move in today. It will make a difference to my kids, couldn't be more excited."

Chase bank as well as Island Co LLC will continue to maximize opportuni-Chase bank, along with ties and resources to make homeownership with highquality homes, a true reality for families.

"Our goal is to build great, affordable homes, in coordination on this first spur further economic development, and create a "Dallas is an expensive neighborhood, benefiting the local community for "If it wasn't for Chase bank generations to come," Black Island Managing Partner Anthony Davis said.

> For more information on Community Homebuyers Initiative visit:

www.blackislandco.com

Continued Air Page 1



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April is Minority Health Month: Get your blood pressure checked.

Having high blood pressure puts you at risk for heart disease and stroke, which are leading causes of death for African American and Hispanic populations in the United States. It is important to get the care that you need to live a longer and healthier life. Start by getting your necessary health

High blood pressure also known as hypertension is when your blood pressure, the force of blood flowing through your blood vessels, is consistently too high. When a person's blood pressure is too high for a long period of time, it causes the heart muscle to stiffen and increases the chance of a heart attack or stroke. High blood pressure is known as the "silent killer" because it is a condition that develops slowly over time and oftentimes has no obvious symptoms. The best way to know if you have high blood pressure it is to have your blood pressure checked.

Parkland offers blood pressure screenings and other vital health screenings, educational information, Parkland Financial Assistance and more at Parkland's Access to Care & Coverage community hubs. These community hubs are accessible on the following days and times at no cost to you and without an appointment:

Inspired Vision Compassion Center	2019 N. Masters Dr., Dallas, 75217	Every Tuesday	10 a.m 4 p.m.
Catholic Charities Santa Clara Cardinal Farrell Community Center	4550 W. Davis St. Bldg. 5 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.
John C. Phelps Recreation Center	3030 Tips Blvd., Dallas, 75216	Every Thursday	3:30 - 6 p.m.
Bonton Farms	6915 Bexar St., Dallas, 75215	Every Friday	2 p.m 4 p.m.

High blood pressure is a common chronic health condition in Dallas County. Don't let it sneak up on you. Get your blood pressure checked at a community hub near you.

For more information on high blood pressure, visit www.parklandhealth.org/hypertension

areas today than when we

started the report. But over the last five years, we've seen an uptick, and we attribute a lot of that to climate change," said Paul Billings, senior vice president of public policy for the American Lung Association.

"We've had some of the hottest years on record - creating dry conditions that lead to drought and wildfires," Billings stated.

State of the Air 2022 shows that an "unacceptable number of Americans are still living in areas with poor air quality that could impact their health," said Harold Wimmer, National President and CEO of the American Lung Association.

"More than 137 million Americans live in counties that had unhealthy levels of particle pollution or ozone. In addition, communities of color are disproportionately exposed to unhealthy air."

The report also found that people of color were 61% more likely than white people to live in a county with a failing grade for at least one pollutant and 3.6 times as likely to live in a county with a failing grade for all three pollutants.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Some 72 million people of color live in counties that received at least one failing grade for ozone and/or particle pollution. Over 14 million people of color live in counties that received failing grades on all three measures, including nearly 10 million Hispanics.
 - People experiencing poverty—More 15.9 million people with incomes meeting the federal poverty definition live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. Over 2.6 million people in poverty live in counties failing all three measures.
- Children and older adults—Some 31 million children under age 18 and nearly 21 million adults age 65 and over live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. Almost 4.7 million children and 2.8 million seniors live

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Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Apr. 28

Friday, Apr. 29

Saturday, Apr. 30

Sunday, May 1

Monday, May 2

Tuesday, May 3

Wednesday, May 4















Illegal Voting Charges Dropped Against Pamela Moses after Memphis D.A. **Gets Pound of Flesh**

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



Photo Courtesy/NNPA

Pamela Moses spent 82 days in custody after a Tennessee judge handed down a six-year prison sentence against the 44-year-old Black woman for trying to register to vote.

On April 22, prosecutors declared that they'd gotten their pound of flesh.

against Moses after another judge granted her a new trial.

"Our original offer to the defendant Pamela Moses was a guilty plea to a misdemeanor and no time to tus. serve," Shelby County District Attorney Amy Weirich declared.

"She rejected that offer and asked for a jury trial. At the conclusion of the weeklong trial, the jury convicted her on the felony charge of false entry on permanent voter registration."

Weirich continued:

"She was taken into custody and spent 75 days in jail before Judge Mark Ward granted her motion for a new trial. In total, she has spent 82 days in custody in this case, which is sufficient. She

from registering to vote or voting in Tennessee as a result of her 2015 conviction Tampering with Evidence. In the interest of judicial economy, we are dismissing her illegal registration case and her violation of probation."

The vital issue had always centered on whether voting eligibility.

A probation officer filled out and signed a form indicating the end of her supervision stemming from a 2015 felony conviction.

The officer admitted the Charges were dropped mistake but left Moses wondering whether she could

> Prosecutors alleged that she deceived the officer and knew of her ineligible sta-

> conviction, The Guardian newspaper uncovered evidence through public that records undercut Weirich's false claim that Moses duped the probation

"In September 2019, just two days after a probation officer mistakenly signed a certificate telling Moses her probation was complete, officials at the Tennessee department of corrections investigated how exactly their employee made the error," The British daily

is also permanently barred newspaper reported.

"Their investigation didn't find that Moses had deceived a probation officer, but rather that the officer had made a good-faith mis-

"The review found that the probation officer referred to as Manager Billington – spent about an hour investigating whether Moses knew she lost her Moses was still on probation. Billington came across a note in Moses' file noting that in 2016, she had been placed on supervised probation for two years. Even though the system said that Moses remained on unsupervised probation, Billington thought this was a mistake. The person who handled the file, he believed, forgot to close out the case when the supervised probation ran out. That's why he However, following her ultimately signed Moses' voting certificate saying her probation had expired in 2018 and she was eligible to vote."

Joe Williams, an administrator in the department of corrections, wrote a letter to a top department official stating that Billington failed to investigate the status of the case adequately.

"He failed to review all of the official documents available through the Shelby county justice portal and

Continue Flesh Page 6

IN MEMORIAM: Pittsburgh Steelers QB **Dwayne Haskins Hit By** Car, Killed in Florida

By **Dorothy J. Gentry**, Sports Editor, Texas Metro News

He would have turned 25 on May 3. News of the former Ohio State star quarterback's death was first reported by ESPN's Adam Schefter who was told by Haskins' agent of his passing. Haskins was in Florida training and putting in offseason work with several other players for the Steelers.



Quarterback Dwayne Haskins (Photo: www.allproreels.com - from Washington Football Team vs. Philadelphia Eagles at FedEx Field, September 13, 2020 / wikimediacommons.org)

was killed when he was hit Steelers. by a dump truck while walking on a South Florida highway. Haskins was stranded on the highway and was looking for gas when the incident occurred in the

early hours of April 9th. He would have turned 25 on May 3. News of the former Ohio State star quarterback's death was first reported by ESPN's Adam Schefter who was told by Haskins' agent of his passing. Haskins was in Florida training and putting in off-

Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin said in a state-

loss for words with the unfortunate passing Dwayne Haskins. He quickly became part of our Steelers family upon his arrival in Pittsburgh and was one of our hardest workers, both on the field and in our community. Dwayne was a great teammate, but even more so, a tremendous friend to so many. I am truly

Pittsburgh Steelers quar- season work with several heartbroken. Our thoughts terback Dwayne Haskins other players for the and prayers are with his wife, Kalabrya, and his entire family during this difficult time."

> While at Ohio State, "I am devastated and at a Haskins set numerous Big 10 conference records and finished third in the 2018 Heisman Trophy voting. He was drafted 15th overall in the 2019 NFL draft by Washington but released during his second season in 2020. He was picked up by the Steelers last year and was competing for a starting job with the

Continued Air Page 4

in counties failing all three

People with underlying

health conditions. • Asthma—2.3 million

- children and nearly 10 million adults with asthma live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. More than 320,000 children and 1.4 million adults with asthma live in counties failing all three measures.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)—Over 6.1 million people with COPD live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. Almost 800,000 people with COPD live in counties failing all three measures.
- Lung Cancer—More than 66,000 people diagnosed with lung cancer in 2018 live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. And 7,400 people diagnosed with lung cancer live in counties failing all

three measures.

- Cardiovascular Disease—More than 8 million people with cardiovascular disease live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. More than 1 million people live in counties failing all three meas-
- Pregnancy—Adverse impacts from air pollution have been shown both for those who are pregnant as well as for the developing fetus. More than 1.5 million pregnancies were recorded in 2020 in counties that received at least one F for particle pollution. Of those, 210,000 are in counties that received failing grades for all three measures.

The American Lung Association recommends that every federal agency, the White House, and Congress must immediately act to dramatically reduce air and climate pollution and drive an urgent nationwide transition to zero-emission

transportation and electrici-

They said 40% of the investments made to meet these goals must improve air quality, health, and life in underserved communities.

Additionally, local governments have the power to help ensure that city and county operations are zeroemission and that residents can choose zero-emission forms of transportation and electricity, the officials said.

The report's authors noted that the actions must benefit the communities most impacted by unhealthy

Further, officials said individuals also could take action to protect themselves and their families from the dangers of air pollution.

"Regardless of its grade or ranking in this report, any community can experience days with unhealthy levels of air pollution," the authors

The following are some

- precautions to reduce risk: • Check daily air pollution forecasts in your area at airnow.gov. The color-coded forecasts let you know when the air is unhealthy in your community. When the air is bad, move your exercise plans and other activities
- indoors. · Protect yourself from wildfire smoke if you live in a fire-prone area. Learn more about using masks and creating a clean room inside your home with our wildfire resources at Lung.org/wildfire.
- · Reduce your own contributions to air pollution. Prioritize walking, biking, and public transit over gasoline-powered vehicles. Conserve electricity and purchase your power from non-combustion clean, sources if you can. Don't burn wood, leaves, or trash. Learn more about how to reduce your impact with our Stand Up For Clean Air ini-

tiative at Lung.org/air.

Continued **Drugs** Page 1

insurer of roughly 62 million Americans, would not cover this medicine.

The proposed applies to an entire class of Alzheimer's drugs, which could impact the current FDA approved drug, aducanumab, as well as future drug therapies in this class. Given the regulatory governance granted to the FDA by Congressional order, it is my opinion this element of the NCD is over-reaching and creates a divisive relationship between two of the most critical federal agencies in

the country, FDA and CMS. This decision would also require certain Alzheimer drugs already in development (which may have different demographic and efficacy profiles) to be subjected to a CED process that lacks its own data and does not take into consideration diversity, inclusion, and efficacy.

Furthermore, and most

important, the proposed NCD betrays the commitment articulated by President Joe Biden in his Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

"Equal opportunity is the bedrock of American democracy, and our diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths. But for too many, the American Dream remains out of reach. Entrenched disparities in our laws and public policies, and in our public and private institutions, have often denied that equal opportunity to individuals and communities," Biden states in the document.

"Our country faces converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities, while a historic movement for justice has highlighted the unbearable

Continue **Drugs** Page 6

You + 10 You and 10 guests are invited to a Virtual Followship in celebration of Greenville Ave. CoC's Thirty-Sixth Andolescent 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 Share This Personal Invite with 5 family members and 5 friends Door Prizes * Food for the Soul * Fashion Show

Vice President Harris and Husband Test Positive for Covid

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Courtesy/NNPA

Vice President Kamala Harris has tested positive for Covid.

Harris and First Gentleman Doug Emhoff returned this week from traveling across the country.

They attended a fundraiser hosted by Walt Disney

Continued Flesh Page 5

negligently relied on a contact

note from a court specialist in

2016," Williams stated,

Billington had looked more

thoroughly, he would have

found additional documents

issued in 2019 that said

Williams conceded that it

Moses was on probation.

Williams noted that if

according to The Guardian.

Television's Dana Walden and producer Matt Walden.

Held at the Walden's home, officials said about and Prevention. 30 people attended.

Harris tested positive for COVID-19 on rapid and PCR tests," said Harris' secretary Kirsten press Allen.

symptoms, will isolate and continue to work from the Vice President's residence. She has not been in close contact with the President or First Lady due to their respective recent travel return to the White House schedules."

Allen said Harris and her she said.

husband would follow guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control

The couple also plan to "Today, Vice President follow the advice of their doctors, Allen stated.

The Vice President is fully vaccinated and boosted. Harris completed her two dose regiment of the "She has exhibited no Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in January of last year and has received two boosters. The first in late October and a second just a few weeks ago on April 1.

> "The Vice President will when she tests negative,"

was "tedious" to find some of

that information.

However, it does not suggest

"The information that Manager Billington had at the time he signed the Voters Restoration was insufficient to reasonably affirm that an offender was off supervi-

Meanwhile, Moses waited in the lobby of the probation office and "seemed impatient while Billington investigated.

that Moses bore responsibility for the mistake," The Guardian reported.

"This really runs contrary to the prosecution's characterization of the incident as Ms. Moses tricking the probation officer," Blair Bowie, an attorney at the Campaign Legal Center.

Moses has declined to speak with reporters.

Continued **Drugs** Page 5

human costs of systemic racism," the president's statement continued.

"Our Nation deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges that we face. It is therefore the policy of my Administration that the Federal Government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality."

I know that CMS is fully aware that Alzheimer's disease is a devastating disease that affects more than 6

million Americans, 80% of whom are Medicare beneficiaries. Among Americans 65 and older, Blacks have the highest percentage of Alzheimer's disease, 13.8%, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In fact, the Alzheimer's Association reports that older Blacks are twice as likely to have Alzheimer's disease than whites.

African Americans are also mostly likely to be undiagnosed Alzheimer's Disease, according to the National Institutes of Health. Therefore, we are also most

likely to be untreated. This issue is very personal for me.

My grandmother lost her fight to Alzheimer's Disease in 2017. I often

watched her feeling helpless as she suffered from this horrifying and painful disease.

Like my grandma, millions of other grandparents, parents and loved ones bear the burdens of this disease and die from it every day.

What would it take for us to do right by them? For us to make

sure that as we search for a cure, people who are living with it are receiving the best possible treatments?

CMS must modify its proposed determination to cover all FDA-approved Alzheimer's therapies. This would give patients, social workers and physicians the ability to make collaborative decisions in the best interests of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

What Musk's past tweets reveal about Twitter's next owner

By **DAVID KLEPPER**

PROVIDENCE, (AP) — Three days before Elon Musk agreed to buy Twitter, the world's richest man tweeted a photo of Bill Gates and used a crude term to make fun of his belly.

Playful, aggressive and often juvenile, Musk's past tweets show how he has used social media to craft his public image as a brash billionaire unafraid to offend. They may also reveal clues as to how Musk will govern the platform he hopes to

"Look at the feed: It's all over the place. It's erratic. At times it's pretty extreme," said Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University professor who studies social media and who recently assigned Musk's tweets as reading material for their students. "It paints him as some sort of rebel leader who will take control of the public square to save it. That is a myth he has constructed."

Musk joined Twitter in 2010 and now has more than 85 million followers — the seventh most of any account and the highest for any business leader. He had mused about buying the site before he agreed on Monday to pay \$44 billion for Twitter, which he said he hopes to turn into a haven where all speech is allowed.

"I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means," Musk wrote in a tweet.

As the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk uses his Twitter account to make business announcements and promote his enterprises. He muses about technology and trade, but has also posted jokes about women's breasts and once compared Canada's prime minister to Hitler. He regularly weighs in on global events, as he did in March 2020 when he tweeted that "The coronavirus pandemic is dumb."

On Tuesday Musk used



FILE - Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk arrives on the red carpet for the Axel Springer media award in Berlin on Dec. 1, 2020. (Hannibal Hanschke/Pool Photo via AP, File)

Twitter to criticize one of the platform's top executives and an attorney, in one case in a reply to a far-right activist who promoted the discredited conspiracy theory that pizza parlors around the U.S. were being used to traffic children.

Musk's tweets were followed by a wave of harassment by other accounts that targeted both individuals. For Vijaya Gadde, an 11year Twitter employee who heads up the company's legal, policy and trust divisions, the harassment included racist and misogynistic attacks, in addition to calls for Musk to fire her.

Musk has long used the megaphone of his Twitter account to punch back at critics or people he opposes, such as when he attacked a diver working to rescue boys trapped in a cave in Thailand by calling him a "pedo," short for pedophile. The diver had previously mocked Musk's proposal to use a sub to rescue the boys. Musk, who won a defamation suit filed by the diver, later said he never intended "pedo" to be interpreted as "pedophile."

A few years ago, after software engineer Cher Scarlett criticized Musk's handling of the cave incident, the tech billionaire fired back and she was soon being harassed by dozens of Musk's online fans. He later deleted the posts, but not before

Scarlett had to lock down her account because she was receiving so many hateful messages.

"It's ironic to me that somebody who claims they want to buy Twitter to protect free speech has such thin skin," she said. "He's a very smart man, and when he replies to people that criticize him, he knows what he's doing. To me that's not championing free speech, it's weaponizing free speech, and I think that's what he'll do owning this platform."

Nineteen-year-old Jack Sweeney got Musk's attention when he created an automated Twitter account that tracked the movements of Musk's jet. Musk responded by offering Sweeney \$5,000 to pull the account. When Sweeney refused, Musk blocked him on Twitter.

Sweeney said he's worried he may get kicked off the site entirely if Musk's takeover is approved. But he said he likes Musk's free speech absolutism, and hopes he sees it through.

"He'll make it more open, and I think that's a good thing," Sweeney said.

Musk's use of Twitter has also led to problems for his own companies. In one August 2018 tweet, for instance, Musk asserted that he had the funding to take Tesla private for \$420 a share, although a court has ruled that it wasn't true.

Continued **Reform** Page 1

decrease crime," Biden stat-

The president added that those receiving clemency had "demonstrated their commitment to rehabilitation and are striving every day to give back and contribute to their communities."

The clemency recipients include Abraham Bolden, an 86-year-old former U.S. Secret Service agent and the first African American to serve on a presidential detail.

In 1964, authorities charged Bolden with offenses related to attempting to sell a copy of a Secret Service file.

His first trial resulted in a hung jury.

Following his conviction at a second trial, even though crucial witnesses against him admitted to lying at the prosecutor's request, the court denied Bolden a new trial.

He has maintained his innocence, arguing that he was targeted for prosecution in retaliation for exposing unprofessional and racist behavior within the U.S.



Photo Courtsey/NNPA

Secret Service.

Bolden has received numerous honors and awards for his ongoing work to speak out against the racism he faced in the Secret Service in the 1960s and his courage in challenging injustice.

Betty Jo Bogans also counted among those cleared by Biden.

A jury convicted the 51year-old in 1998 for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine in the Southern District of Texas.

Authorities said she attempted to transport drugs for her boyfriend and his accomplice, neither of whom were detained or

arrested.

At the time of her conviction, the White House said Bogans was a single mother with no prior record who accepted responsibility for her limited role in the offense.

"Because of the harsh penalties in place at the time she was convicted, Ms. Bogan received a seven-year sentence," the White House said in a state-

In the nearly two decades since her release from custody, Bogans has held consistent employment, even while undergoing treatment for cancer, and has focused on raising her son.