

"When they go low, we go HIGH"

- Michelle Obama



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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 33

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 30 - May 6, 2020

Hillary Clinton becomes latest Democrat to endorse Biden

By BILL BARROW

(AP) - Hillary Clinton, the first woman to become a major party's presidential nominee, endorsed Joe Biden's White House bid on Tuesday, continuing Democrats' efforts to coalesce around the former vice president as he takes on President Donald Trump.

Clinton made her announcement during a Biden campaign town hall to discuss the coronavirus and its effect on women. Without mentioning Trump by name, Clinton assailed the Republican president and hailed Biden's experience and temperament in comparison.

"Just think of what a difference it would make



TEXT UNITED TO 30330 For ASL and CC visit JoeBiden.com/ASLCC TEXT UNITED TO 30330 For ASL and CC visit JoeBiden.com/ASLCC

right now if we had a president who not only listened to the science ... but

brought us together," said Clinton, who lost the 2016 election despite leading

Trump in the national popular vote. "Think of what it would mean if we had a

real president," Clinton continued, rather than a man who "plays one on

TV."

Biden, as a former vice president and six-term senator, "has been preparing for this moment his entire life," said Clinton, a former secretary of state. "This is a moment when we need a leader, a president like Joe Biden."

With her historic candidacy, Clinton remains a powerful — and complex — figure in American life. Her 2016 campaign inspired many women, and her loss to Trump resonates to this day. The female candidates in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary often faced skepticism that a woman could win the White House.

Biden has pledged to select a woman as his vice president.

Michelle Obama documentary 'Becoming' to premiere on Netflix



FILE - This May 11, 2019 file photo shows former first lady Michelle Obama during "Becoming: An Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama," in Atlanta. Netflix says a documentary portrait of Michelle Obama titled "Becoming" will premiere on its streaming service next week. It chronicles her 34-city book tour in 2018-2019 for her memoir "Becoming." (Photo by Paul R. Giunta/Invision/AP, File)

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — A documentary portrait of Michelle Obama titled "Becoming" will premiere on Netflix next week, the streaming company announced Monday.

The film, described as

the scale of a rock tour, with a string of dates at sold-out arenas.

The film will debut May 6 on Netflix. In a statement, Obama said the experience of the tour "drove home the idea that what we share in common is deep and real and can't be messed with."

"We processed the past and imagined a better future. In talking about the idea of 'becoming,' many of us dared to say our hopes out loud," said Obama. "I treasure the memories and that sense of connection now more than ever, as we struggle together to weather this pandemic, as we care for our loved ones, tend to our communities, and try to keep up with work and school while coping with huge amounts of loss, confusion, and uncertainty."

Lancaster 17-year-old had no underlying health conditions dies from COVID-19 See PAGE 2



Endorsement Alert
State Senator Royce West
for
U.S. Senate
Black Women's PAC endorses Texas Senator Royce West for U.S. Senate
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Runoff Election on July 14 / Early Vote July 6-10
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Lancaster 17-year-old had no underlying health conditions dies from COVID-19



Jameela Dirrean-Emoni Barber (Photo/Lancaster ISD)

LANCASTER, Texas - A Lancaster 17-year-old is the city's first COVID-19-related death.

Lancaster ISD identi-

fied the girl on Tuesday as 17-year-old Jameela Dirrean-Emoni Barber, a rising senior. Health officials say she died in the

ER on Saturday before she could be admitted to a hospital. She did not have any known underlying health conditions.

Lancaster High School Principal Eleanor Webb says Jameela had a smile as big as the state of Texas.

"She was a leader cadet. She loved ROTC," Webb said. "That baby was a self-starter, a self-motivator, and we were looking forward to celebrating her induction into the National Honor Society."

Instead, Webb and hundreds of Jameela's classmates are celebrating her life.

The healthy 17-year-old with no underlying conditions is the city's first death caused by coronavirus. It's unclear when she became infected or

how long she was sick. She was taken to an ER over the weekend and died before she could be admitted.

Jameela spoke with her teacher on the phone Friday evening, apologizing for not having her work turned in and promising to get it finished once she was feeling better. The next day, Saturday, she passed away.

The principal of LISD said Jameela was a well-rounded and well-liked student — "just a delight to have around."

She was going to be inducted into the National Honor Society and was involved with JROTC, and Webb said she would have excelled in college or in the military after high school.

PRESS ROOM: Food Assistance Programs Critical for Low-Income Children and Families



U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov

According to the Census Bureau, of the 13.8 million households that receive SNAP, 6.7 million have children under the age of 18 and 6.4 million have someone living with a disability.

Of all the homes with children under 18, some 18% receive assistance from SNAP, according to the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey.

Students who qualify for SNAP also get free or reduced-cost school lunches.

Federal nutrition programs are among the many reasons it is so important to respond (and report *all* children, including newborns, living in your home) to the 2020 Census. Knowing how many children are in an area helps federal, state and local officials evaluate funding for nutrition programs.

SNAP and the National School Lunch Program are just two nutrition programs that use census results to inform planning.

Other programs include the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP), lunch programs for people age 65 years and older and meal delivery to disabled and homebound individuals.

The Census Bureau works with state and tribal governments to ensure recipients of SNAP don't lose their benefits if they come to work for the 2020 Census.

They are working to get census income excluded so recipients who receive benefits can work as census takers (enumerators) without losing their benefits or eligibility status.

The Census Bureau has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which administers SNAP) to exclude income from temporary employment for 2020 Census. While it is ultimately a state decision whether to exempt 2020 Census income earned, a great majority of states have already agreed to this waiver.

Community Calendar

Dallas County Victim Resources

Hotlines

- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-SAFE
- Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center 972-641-

RAPE (7273)

- Adult and Child Abuse Hotline 800-252-5400

Transitional Housing

- Mosaic Family Services 214-823-4434
- Home Sweet Home 214-424-7033

- Crossroads 972-254-4003

Other Resources

- Dallas Police Department Family Violence Unit 214-671-4304
- City of Dallas Crisis

- Intervention Unit 214-670-7766

- Dallas County Family Violence 214-653-3528

- Child Protective Services 800-252-5400

- Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas 214-828-1000



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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Ben Chavis: 'I welcome the return of millennials' to reading black newspapers



"Some people say that millennials don't read. And that's not true. They do read," Chavis told Zenger News. "They're looking for in-depth analysis, in-depth information."

By **André Johnson**
Zenger News Urban

Civil rights leader Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis Jr. sat down for an exclu-

sive interview with Zenger News to discuss the future of the black press.

"Some people say that millennials don't read. And that's not true. They do read," said Dr. Chavis. "They're looking for in-depth analysis, in-depth information."

"And to the extent to which the black community, through the black press, can provide information, I

welcome the return of millennials to the black press," he said.

Dr. Chavis was an assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and now serves as the CEO and President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade group for African American newspapers.

He spoke to Zenger on February 28 in National Harbor, Maryland.

"We come out of the print world, but now we're in the print world, the digital world and the social media world," Chavis explained. "And I think that these media platforms are not mutually exclusive."

"Today, in 2020, we have 230 African American-owned newspa-

pers. We've upgraded all of our websites. We have the largest now black-owned digital network in the United States," he said.

"So the future looks bright and we're always looking for the right partners to help us further innovate, to distribute the content that we have."

Chavis said he's optimistic about the youngest generation of news consumers.

"We have 25% increase in black readership among millennials," he said, adding: "I'm optimistic because I see young people have a hunger and thirst for information that will improve their quality of life."

Dear Dietitian

Dear Dietitian,

To increase consumption of EPA and DHA, I've started eating wild canned pink salmon with skin and bones. As you know, salt is added to such products, and I'd rather not consume excess sodium. If I drain and rinse the salmon with water, how much EPA and DHA would I lose either from the fluid surrounding the salmon or from the salmon itself? My real questions, then, are: where are the EPA and DHA in canned salmon, and how securely are they locked in place so that they either would -- or would not -- be washed away by water?

Thank you in advance for your time and any suggestions.

Sincerely,
Evan

Dear Evan,

Omega-3 fatty acids, like Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), are found in fatty fish, such as salmon, rainbow trout, sardines, and mackerel. These nutrients have been associated with good heart health.

Canned salmon is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to get omega-3s in your diet, and the bones offer calcium. For readers who may not have tried this, the salmon bones crush easily between your index finger and thumb, and mix with the rest of the fish without

producing an unpleasant texture.

In an effort to provide thorough information on this topic, I sought the expertise of a food scientist. According to Dr. Andrew Clarke, Associate Professor of Food Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, "Fatty acids, such as omega-3s, are components of the oils and triglycerides, and therefore are not highly soluble in water. Rinsing [with water] is not likely to reduce omega-3s from the drained fish."

"An overlooked factor is that canning involves a significant heat treatment and omega-3s, like all fats and oils, will melt during the canning process and become part of the liquid which is in the can. When

one drains the liquid from the canned fish (either oil- or water-packed), nutrients are discarded. Rinsing the liquid from the fish flushes away more but is unlikely to remove more [omega-3s from the fish itself]."

While there is no Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for EPA and DHA, the American Heart Association recommends consuming fatty fish twice a week, even if you don't have heart disease. That said, fresh or frozen salmon contains twice the amount of omega-3s as canned, and has considerably less sodium. Remember, when it comes to food, fresh is best!

Until next time, be healthy!

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Black Women for Positive Change Endorses Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings for U.S. Congress

"It is with great pleasure that Black Women for Positive Change endorses Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings for election to the 7th U.S. Congressional District, in Baltimore, Maryland. We enjoyed interviewing Dr. Cummings to learn about her "HOPE Agenda" for Baltimore citizens that addresses: Healthy and safe communities; Opportunities for Youth; Prosperous families; and Equitable development," stated Dr. Stephanie E. Myers and Honorable

Daun S. Hester, National Co-Chairs, of Black Women for Positive Change, "It is only appropriate that the stellar Congressional career of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, be continued by his outstanding, accomplished wife. Her love of her late husband and her passion to continue his legacy on behalf of the residents of the 7th District of Baltimore, deserves the support of voters."

"I have known Dr.

Cummings for several years and have witnessed her outstanding leadership in government, and the private sector," said Danyell Smith, Chair, Baltimore Chapter of Black Women for Positive Change, "She is passionate and humble, yet she is a fighter where she needs to be in the halls of the U.S. Congress and for her Baltimore Community. Dr. Rockeymoore Cummings overlooks the messy noise of campaigning and focuses on what drives policy and legislation. It is

because of her approach that I, as well as our organization-Black Women for Positive Change, are proud to endorse such an amazing woman who can definitely hold her own in the U.S. Congress and can take Baltimore into the next phase of Elijah's 'Vision'. Black Women for Positive Change encourages Baltimore voters, in the 7th Congressional District, to vote for Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, in the Maryland election, on

June 02, 2020."

In response to the endorsement, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings stated, "I am honored to be endorsed by Black Women for Positive Change. I appreciate their belief in my ability to bring positive change to the 7th district. We have a shared commitment to creating opportunity and building strong, healthy communities in the Baltimore region, and we both believe our community needs fresh ideas and

new leadership. I am ready to fight for our people and I look forward to our work together."

Black Women for Positive Change, is a national civic, volunteer network dedicated to; (1) Strengthening and Expanding the American, Middle/Working Class, with focus on the African American Community, (2) Changing the Culture of Violence in America, and the World; and (3) Creating 'Opportunities As Alternatives to Violence.'

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

Tuesday Song Practice
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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
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Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

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Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
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West Says Paid Sick Leave Necessary To Protect Minorities From Income Loss as Coronavirus Spreads

DALLAS - Senator Royce West on Wednesday said the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has highlighted the desperate need for federally-mandated paid sick leave in the United States.

“As many as 78 percent of American workers live paycheck to paycheck according to a recent survey. We know, statistically, many of those families are African American and Hispanic. The potential economic hardships this could cause a Texas family are tremendous,” West said. “It will disproportionately impact African American and Hispanic Texans,” he said.

“I think of a Hispanic dad or a single African American mother who works two jobs to make ends meet, has no vacation time, no savings, and ends up out of work for two weeks, and it stops me cold in my tracks,” West said. “You know what comes next--they can’t pay the rent and are evicted, they get behind on their car note, their electric bill, and more,” West said.

“I know this is what happens in these situations, because I have seen it first-hand,” West said. “I have had families--white, Hispanic, and African American--sit across from my desk in my senate district and tell me this is what happens. I’ve seen mothers and fathers who don’t want to ask for help but are stuck when they have nowhere to turn because of a sudden, brief illness,” West said.

“Two weeks out of work may not be much if you make \$200,000 a year,

have vacation, paid sick time, and savings. To Hispanic and African American families who are middle class and low-income, it could mean economic devastation,” West said. “For families of color already on the razor’s edge of poverty, it may mean the difference between a roof over their head or homelessness,” he said.

West said he believed every working American should be entitled to at least seven calendar days per year of federally-mandated paid sick leave. “Frankly, that’s not enough. It really should be more. However, I am a pragmatic person, and I know that we must build a coalition to get this passed in the Senate and in the House,” West said.

“I will introduce this legislation when I am in the U.S. Senate, and work to build a coalition to get it passed,” he said.

“Republicans are fond of saying Texans should pull themselves up by the bootstraps. And many times, when they use that language to attack programs such as food stamps, housing vouchers, and disability services, we know that is dog-whistle racism,” West said.

“You cannot pull yourself up by the bootstraps when you can’t afford boots, and that is the situation in which many African American and Hispanic Texans find themselves,” West continued.

“We must do more for working Americans and working Texans,” he concluded.

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NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Man gets 18 months in prison for threatening to kill Trump

DALLAS (AP) — A 36-year-old Texas man has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for threatening to assassinate President Donald Trump, prosecutors said.

Mickael Gedlu was sentenced Friday, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox’s office in Dallas. He pleaded guilty in December to making threats against Trump.

According to plea documents, Gedlu admitted he threatened Trump’s life on social media, stating on YouTube: “I am waiting for Trump to visit Dallas before I attempt to assassinate him.”

During court proceedings, prosecutors said that on May 31, 2018, Gedlu was observed across the street from Dallas’ Adolphus Hotel just 30

minutes before Trump arrived there for a fundraiser. Dallas police officers noticed Gedlu holding a “Kill Trump” sign and detained him as he screamed “kill the president.”

Prosecutors said the U.S. Secret Service conducted the investigation with the assistance of Dallas police.

Mayor Eric Johnson’s statement on Governor Abbott’s plan to reopen Texas businesses

DALLAS -- Mayor Eric Johnson released the following statement on Gov. Greg Abbott’s plan to reopen segments of the Texas economy:

“The governor has made a decision and, under Texas law, he has the final say in these matters, so now it is incumbent upon all Texans to ensure that this plan is successful. Dallas resi-

dents and local leaders have worked hard to flatten the curve of COVID-19’s spread, and we must continue our commitment to social distancing practices, good hygiene, protecting our vulnerable populations, and doing all we can to increase testing and contact tracing.”

Oklahoma, Utah face scrutiny over malaria drug purchases

By SEAN MURPHY, BRADY McCOMBS and LINDSAY WHITE-HURST

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Republican state leaders in Oklahoma and Utah are facing scrutiny for spending millions of dollars combined to purchase malaria drugs promoted by President Trump to treat COVID-19 patients that many other states obtained for free and that doctors warned

shouldn’t be used without more testing.

While governments in at least 20 other states obtained more than 30 million doses of the drug through donations from the federal reserve or private companies, Oklahoma and Utah instead bought them from private pharmaceutical companies.

Top officials in both states chalked up the decisions to “the fog of war.”

Austin City Hall vandalized as Texas readies for slow reboot

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The City Hall in the capital of Texas was vandalized sometime late Monday or early Tuesday with red paint and anti-capitalism graffiti messages as the state prepares to slowly reopen one of the world’s largest economies that has been closed due to the coron-

avirus pandemic.

Red paint was splattered across the front entrance of the building in Austin and messages were spay-painted on the steps outside.

One message read: “MAY 1 INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY” with a hammer and sickle. Another said: “U.S. imperialism is the virus” and “socialist revolution is the cure!”

The defacement occurred after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday outlined a plan that allow the state’s restaurants, retailers, movie theaters and malls to start letting customers trickle into their establishments starting May 1.

The governor’s move comes as Texas and other states are processing a record-high surge in jobless claims and food banks are seeing spiking demands. However, testing for the virus remains

limited.

It was just the latest act of vandalism at Austin’s City Hall. In March, a man was arrested and accused of incinerating a statue of a grackle that stood outside the building, burning the art installation to the ground.

According to state health officials, Texas had more than 25,200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of Monday, with 663 deaths and more than 11,100 deemed recovered. The number of infections is likely higher because many people have not been tested and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms that clear up within weeks. For some, especially older adults and those with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and be life-threatening.

SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, April 30

Friday, May 1

Saturday, May 2

Sunday, May 3

Monday, May 4

Tuesday, May 5

Wednesday, May 6



H - 84°
L - 58°



H - 87°
L - 64°



H - 91°
L - 69°



H - 93°
L - 71°



H - 93°
L - 73°

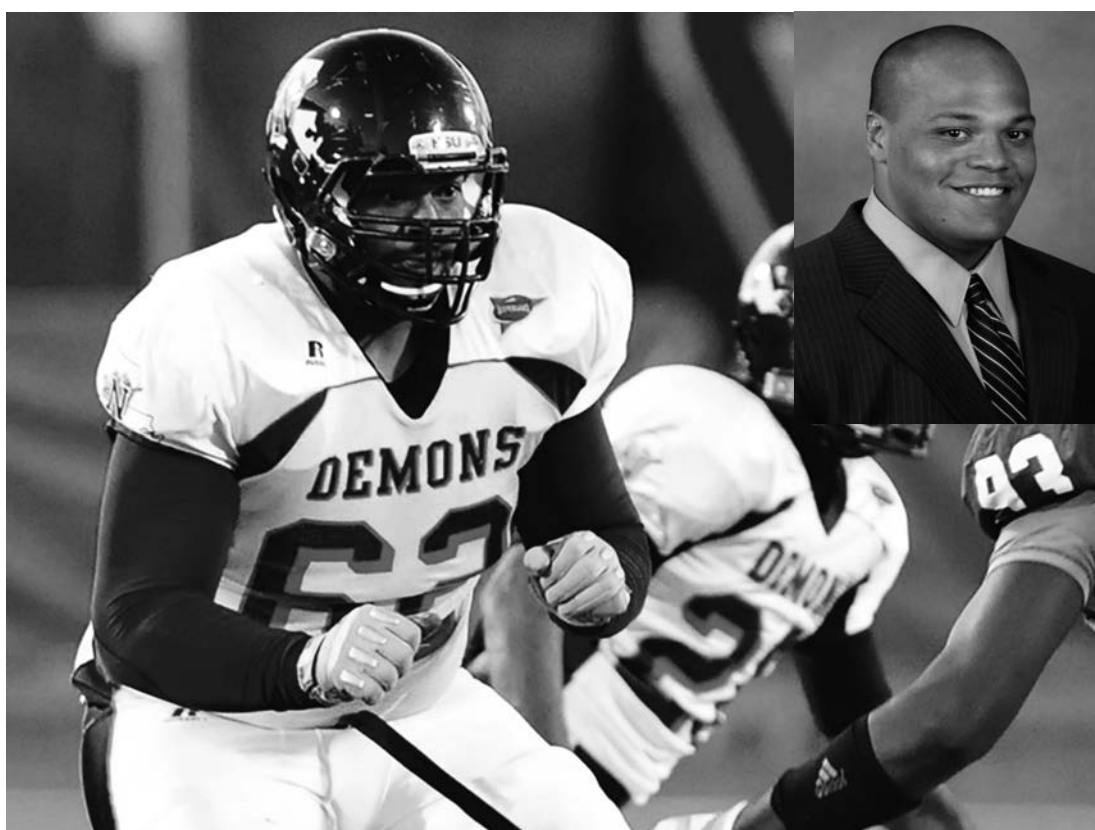


H - 91°
L - 64°



H - 82°
L - 60°

Cowboys: QB Dak Prescott's older brother Jace dies at 31



DALLAS (AP) — Jace Prescott, the older brother of Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott, died Thursday, the team said. He was 31.

The Cowboys confirmed the older Prescott's death in a brief statement. There was no information on how or where Jace Prescott died.

The older Prescott was

an offensive lineman a decade ago at Northwestern State in Louisiana, where the Prescott brothers Tad, Jace and Dak grew up. Jace Prescott played three seasons at Northwestern State, starting all 11 games in his final season in 2010.

Dak Prescott appeared in a Campbell's Chunky

Soup commercial with his two brothers that aired last season. Their mother, Peggy Prescott, died of colon cancer in 2013.

"The loss of Tad and Dak's brother is devastating," the Cowboys said in their statement. "At this incredibly difficult time, the Prescott family asks only for prayers and respect for their privacy."

Cowboys agree to terms with veteran free agent CB Worley



FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have agreed to terms with veteran cornerback Daryl Worley on a free agent deal after the team selected two cornerbacks in last week's NFL draft.

Before the team announced the move on its website Wednesday, Worley had already posted on Twitter an image of himself in a Cowboys helmet and jersey.

Worley spent the past two seasons with the Oakland Raiders after playing his first two seasons with Carolina. The 25-year-old Worley, who has five interceptions and 243 tackles in 56 NFL games, was a third-round pick by the Panthers out of West Virginia in the 2016 draft.

The Cowboys last week drafted Trevon Diggs from Alabama in the sec-

ond round, and Reggie Robinson II from Tulsa in the fourth round.

Former first-round pick Byron Jones, who started 73 of his 79 games the past five seasons for the Cowboys, left in free agency and became the NFL's highest-paid cornerback. He signed a five-year deal with the Miami Dolphins worth more than \$76.5 million.

AARP Texas Statement on Reopening The Texas Economy

AUSTIN, Texas — AARP Texas Director Tina Tran issued the following statement Monday, April 27:

"States are experiencing different levels of COVID-19 activity, however according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the novel Coronavirus pandemic is not over. We urge Texans of all ages to follow the guidelines outlined by the CDC and state health agencies to prevent the spread of the virus, which has had devastating and deadly impacts on Texans no matter age or any other characteristic.

"Texas policy makers must continue to do every-

thing they can to ensure there is adequate testing for anyone who needs it, including accurate antibody testing; transparency about new and active cases in communities; sufficient contact tracing capacity; and enough PPEs, ventilators, hospital capacity, and support for those healthcare professionals and first responders on the front lines of this crisis. Without these and other key protections in place the virus will keep spreading, risking people's lives and health, and our economy."

Here are some key resources:

CDC - Coronavirus Updates <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Texas Department of State Health Services <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 Information (English) www.aarp.org/coronavirus

COVID-19 Information (Spanish) www.aarp.org/elcoronavirus

AARP Community Connections (English) <https://aarpcommunityconnections.org/>

Mi Comunidad con AARP <https://aarpcommunityconnections.org/es/>

AARP National Town Hall Audio Call, occurs weekly on Thursday at noon CT. 1-855-274-9507 (No RSVP; PIN #; or Membership Required)

12 Kindle Children's Books Free on World Book Day

(DALLAS, TX — April 22, 2020) – Want to pull your kids away from the TV or Video games? We've got the perfect solution for you. April 23, is World Book Day and local Author/Illustrator Sharon Jones-Scaife and 11 other children's book authors from around the world have teamed up to offer this children's Kindle book collection absolutely FREE. Printable, puzzles, mazes, games, etc. are also available for free. No strings attached—we just ask that you leave an honest review. The complete collection can be downloaded at <https://coffeecreekmediagroup.com/index.php/2020/04/23/12-kindle-childrens-books-free-on-world-book-day/>

Also, pre-order Jones-Scaife's new book for kids, 'Lil' Marco Plays Hide and Seek.' Through a story of hide and seek, featuring the series character, Lil' Marco, Jones-Scaife highlights the importance of being prepared when faced with weather-related emergencies. The new children's book is slated for release May 3, 2020, however it is available for pre-orders now at <http://www.coffeecreekmediagroup.com>.


Written in cute rhyming stanzas and paired with vibrant and engaging illustrations, Lil' Marco Plays Hide and Seek not only leads children on a trail of fun play, but also introduces them to safe places to hide when faced with weather-related emergen-

cies. Lil' Marco Plays Hide and Seek is an engaging story of hide and seek as well as an emergency preparedness manual, all in one. The story is sure to charm and delight, while the informational pages will educate and enforce preparedness. It is available in print and ebook at online retailers. Book data follows:


Age range: 2-6 years old
ISBN: 978-1-7340928-0-6
Paperback: 32 pages
Publication Date: May 3, 2020
Published by Frog Pond Publishing, a division of Coffee Creek Media Group

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WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN
Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



COVER YOUR COUGH & SNEEZE
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing. Do not sneeze or cough into your hands.



STAY HOME
If you are sick, stay home. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Drug proves effective against virus as economic damage rises



Tobacco auctioneers wear face masks to protect against coronavirus while inspecting crop on the first day of the tobacco marketing season in Harare, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The tobacco selling season began across the country with auction floors complying with strict Covid-19 measures which included setting up clinics and isolation sites. (AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER, MARI-LYNN MARCHIONE** and **PAT EATON-ROBB**

Scientists on Wednesday announced the first effective treatment against the coronavirus — an experimental drug that can speed the recovery of COVID-19 patients — in a major medical advance that came as the economic gloom caused by the scourge deepened in the U.S. and Europe.

The U.S. government said it is working to make the antiviral medication remdesivir available to patients as quickly as possible. Stocks surged around the world on the news, with the Dow Jones

Industrial average climbing more than 550 points, or over 2%, in the afternoon.

“What it has proven is that a drug can block this virus,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government’s top infectious-disease expert. “This will be the standard of care.”

The news came as the U.S. government reported that American output is shriveling at an alarming rate in the biggest and fastest collapse since the Depression. The virus has killed over 220,000 people worldwide since December, including about 60,000 confirmed deaths in the U.S., and led to lockdowns and other restrictions that have

closed factories and other businesses around the world.

Amid the shutdowns, the U.S. said its gross domestic product, or output of goods and services, shrank at an annual rate of 4.8% in the January-March period, the sharpest quarterly drop since the global financial meltdown of more than a decade ago.

And the worst is yet to come: The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the GDP of the world’s biggest economy will plunge at a 40% annual rate during the three-month period that ends in June.

Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

Gilead drug proves effective against coronavirus in US study

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**

An experimental drug has proved effective against the new coronavirus in a major study, shortening the time it takes for patients to recover by four days on average, U.S. government and company officials announced Wednesday.

Gilead Sciences’s remdesivir is the first treatment to pass such a strict test against the virus, which has killed more than 218,000 people since it emerged late last year in China. Having a treatment could have a profound effect on the global pandemic, especially because health officials say any vaccine is likely a year or more away.

The study, run by the National Institutes of Health, tested remdesivir versus usual care in 1,063 hospitalized coronavirus patients around the world. At the White House, NIH’s Dr. Anthony Fauci said the drug reduced the time it takes patients to recover by 31% — 11 days on average versus 15 days for those just given usual care.

He also said there was a trend toward fewer deaths among those on remdesivir, and that full results would soon be published

in a medical journal. “What it has proven is that a drug can block this virus,” Fauci said. “This will be the standard of care.”

A statement from the Food and Drug Administration says that the agency has been talking with California-based Gilead “regarding making remdesivir available to patients as quickly as possible, as appropriate.”

Remdesivir is among many treatments being tested against the coronavirus but was the farthest along in study.

The drug is given through an IV and is designed to interfere with the virus’s ability to copy its genetic material. In animal tests against SARS and MERS, diseases caused by similar coronaviruses, the drug helped prevent infection and reduced the severity of symptoms when given early enough in the course of illness. But it is not yet approved anywhere in the world for any use.

The NIH study quickly enrolled its original goal of 440 patients and then was expanded to give more answers on questions such as which subgroups may or may not benefit, and other factors that may affect success, such as how early in the

course of illness the drug was given.

The study’s main goal also was altered. Originally, it was the percentage of patients having various outcomes such as needing a breathing machine, fully recovered or dying 15 days after starting treatment. The new main goal is time to recovery, such as no longer needing oxygen or hospitalization.

“We are excited and optimistic,” said one expert, Vanderbilt University’s Dr. Mark Denison. His lab first tested remdesivir against other coronaviruses in 2013 and has done much research on it since, but was not involved in the NIH study.

“It’s active against every coronavirus that we’ve ever tested,” he said. “It was very hard for the virus to develop resistance to remdesivir. That means the drug would likely be effective over longer term use.”

A similar drug, Kevzara, did not work as well at low doses in a study of severely ill coronavirus patients, its makers Sanofi and Regeneron said. They’re continuing to test it at higher doses in critically ill patients, though.

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Early Learning

‘Trolls’ went straight to homes. Movie theaters are fuming.



This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters, from left, Guy Diamond, voiced by Kunal Nayyar, Tiny Diamond, voiced by Kenan Thompson and Poppy, voiced by Anna Kendrick in a scene from "Trolls World Tour." (DreamWorks Animation via AP)

By **JAKE COYLE**

NEW YORK (AP) — The most controversial movie of the year is ... “Trolls World Tour”?

As innocuous as the rainbow-colored, music-blaring animated movie may seem, the digital release of the “Trolls” sequel has caused a storm to course through the movie industry. Just as the pandemic worsened and movie theaters were shuttering, Universal Pictures shifted the film’s release to video on demand, leading a charge straight through the theatrical window.

Universal calls the “Trolls World Tour” digital release a success and suggests it may be the beginning of a sea change in how movies are released. Theater owners strenuously disagree. AMC Theaters, the largest chain in the United States, is signaling an all-out war, saying it will no longer show Universal movies.

While few anticipated a skirmish would come over a glitter explosion like “Trolls World Tour,” it has been long in coming. Netflix, Amazon and other streaming services have in recent years broken the industry’s traditional the-

atrical window of 72-90 days (and thus had their films excluded from major theater chains), and the major studios have sometimes been tempted to try their own luck and head straight to homes.

On Tuesday, NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell told The Wall Street Journal that the digital release for “Trolls World Tour” has gone well enough to demonstrate the viability of direct-to-home releases. He promised that even once theaters reopen, “We expect to release movies on both formats.”

TOO MANY WASHINGTON POLITICIANS ARE PROTECTING **INSURANCE COMPANY PROFITS OVER BLACK HEALTH CARE**

Too often, insurance companies refuse to cover emergency services. Either patients are forced to pay bills they cannot afford, or hospitals are shuttering. Congress claims to be tackling this challenge, but until the Congressional Black Caucus got involved, Congress was focused on protecting insurer profits, not people. Let's join leaders like Rev. Al Sharpton, the Congressional Black Caucus, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. and Dr. Julianne Malveaux in working to ensure that insurance companies expand their networks and cover more emergency services. This will maintain access to care in hard-hit Black communities.

**THE STATUS QUO MEANS HOSPITALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES
CLOSE FIRST. WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN.**

Emergency services are already hard to come by in our communities. Together, we can ensure that the old way of doing business - putting insurance company profits over people - **STOPS**.

JOIN US AND SUPPORT THE CBC

**Help us work to make sure Congress passes a bill
that keeps us healthy and alive -
by allowing insurance networks to grow
and cover lifesaving services.**



SCIC



**BLACK WOMEN'S
HEALTH IMPERATIVE**



Dr. Benjamin F.
Chavis Jr.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

For more information, visit: <https://nationalactionnetwork.net/newnews/black-americans-and-healthcare>