A NEGATIVE MIND WILL NEVER GIVE YOU A POSITIVE LIFE.



PRESS ROOM: TWENTY PEARLS Documentary Film about First Black-Greek Letter Organization Now Available Nationwide

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Makes History with Film **Production and D**istribution

CHICAGO, IL — Alpha Alpha Sorority, Kappa Incorporated^{\mathbb{R}} announces the North American release of TWENTY PEARLS, the official documentary film which chronicles the organization's history. Narrated by Phylicia Rashād, TWENTY PEARLS journeys through 113 provocative years. Only 40 years past the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, nine Black college women enrolled at Howard University where they organized



IN LOVING MEMORY OF





SUNRISE FEBRUARY 27, 1938

SUNSET MARCH 27, 2021

Life Story

Olivia Gray Baltimore, Mrs. Hervey was born February 27, 1938 in Crandall, Texas to Wilmer and Ocie Gray. As a child, she attended Good Street Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Olivia excelled in school graduating at the top of her Lincoln High School class in 1956. Her academic excellence continued at Prairie View A&M University. She majored in Business Administration with a Minor in English, graduating at the top of her class in 1960. After graduating, she married Billy T. Hervey. Career opportunities led them to Dallas, Texas, Altus, Oklahoma,

Maryland, Washington, D.C, and Cocoa, Florida finally settling in Houston, Texas in 1965.

Olivia started her career as an educator teaching English at Lincoln High School, Dallas, Texas, Altus High School, Altus, Oklahoma and Phyllis Wheatley High School, Houston, Texas. Her federal government career began at the General Services Administration (GSA) in Baltimore, Maryland and later Washington, DC. She also worked at Patrick Air Force Base, Brevard

Continue Olivia Page 2

Continued food distribution in **North Texas** Urged

By Valerie Fields-Hill, News Editor, Texas Metro News

Foundation calls for extension of program scheduled to end in April

Dallas County organization that distributes fresh food boxes and COVIDprotection products predict that local families will continue needing such items through at least 2022. Dominique Bryant-Howell and her husband Chris Howell, founders of Dallas-based Chris Howell Foundation, said the COVID-19 pandemic has gutted thousands of families' household incomes; they will need more than a year to financially recover, she said.

"The need is so great," Bryant-Howell said. "We have decided as a board to move forward with food

Administrators of a distribution. People are going to need 12 to 18 months to pull themselves together."

Bryant-Howell made the statement Thursday, March 25, during a private gathering of Tarrant County and City of Fort Worth elected officials and business leaders. The foundation hosted the gathering at downtown Fort Worth's The Capital Grille to address looming concerns over a marked rise in food insecurity in Arlington, Mansfield, and Fort Worth and nearby communities.

Tarrant County Comm-

Continue Food Page 7

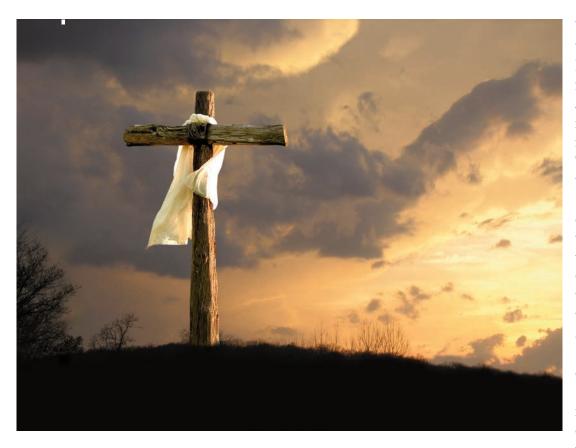


Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 73 Years



COMMENTARY: The Seven Last Words of George Floyd

By John Thomas III, Editor, The Christian Recorder



It is customary on Good Friday to commemorate the seven last words/sayings of Jesus Christ in solemn worship. In that spirit today, I encourage us to reflect upon the seven last words of George Floyd based upon the police bodycam transcript. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Good Friday is a solemn and holy event for Christians. We cannot get to the resurrection of Jesus Christ without traversing

The commemoration of through the crucifixion, and death. When we sepadeath, and burial of God's only begotten son. One of the dividing lines among Christian traditions is the context of Jesus's Passion

rate Jesus from His worldly environment and circumstances-being persecuted as a Jewish teacher by a foreign empire and

betrayed by compatriots who were threatened by His message and witness—we lose sight that Jesus, both fully God and man, was gruesomely murdered. This year's Good Friday was especially poignant for African Americans it comes in the middle of the trial of Derek Chauvin for the gruesome murder of George Floyd. The 9 minutes and 29 seconds that turned the collective stomach of the world have been seared into our shared Black son. When Jesus consciousness and the legacy of this watershed moment is still playing out. In the same way that we cannot allow our faith to be sanitized, we cannot allow the death of Mr. Floyd to be stripped of the circumstances of institutional racism, poverty, and White Supremacy that led to his brutal death at the hands of one who was charged to serve and pro-

tect. It is customary on Good Friday to commemorate the seven last words/sayings of Jesus Christ in solemn worship. In that spirit today, I encourage us to reflect upon the seven last words of George Floyd based upon the police bodycam transcript.

1) Mama, mama, mama!

"When George Floyd called for his mother, he was calling for all of us," said a friend of mine who is the mother of a young was dying on the cross, He looked to His mother, Mary commending her to John's care. We can only imagine how Mary felt to see the life slowly leaving her son's body. In his last moments, Mr. Floyd cried out for the woman who brought him into this world as he realized he was being ripped out of it. 2) Please, man.

When Jesus was on the

cross, He appealed to His tormentors to quench His thirst. Mr. Floyd appealed to the humanity of his tormentor to save his life. He was already on the ground and restrained. He was not a threat. This plea echoes the signs of the 1960s strikes when workingclass Black people asserted their dignity by simply saying, "I am a Man!" It also echoes the appeal of Sojourner Truth for persons to see and value her humanity by saying, "Ain't I a Woman?" In the eyes of his murderer, however, Mr. Floyd was not a citizen-much less, a human being.

3) You're going to kill me, man!

Mr. Floyd told his murderer that he was dying and pleaded with him to stop. As the trial goes on, we are hearing the damning testimony of persons

Continue Floyd Page 4

Continued Olivia Page 1

County, Florida.

Olivia worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office advancing to her position as an Assistant Director. She retired in 1999. Her Patrick retirement years were filled with travel throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, five Asia, Australia, and the Caribbean. She became a Theodore, Lauren and successful Real Estate broker selling properties in the MacGregor and Southwest Houston areas. Olivia was a faithful member of Trinity United Methodist Church where she sang in several choirs. In addition, she served in several leadership positions within the VA Toastmasters club and she was a dedicated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

brother, Wilmer O. Gray, Jr., and her sister, Merfay Gray Brooks.

Olivia was a devoted and loving mother. She is survived by three children: Jewel Hervey, Marcus Hervey, and Hervey, two daughters-in-law, Tracie Shelton Hervey and Carolyn Hurst Hervey, grandchildren, Mckenzie, William Landon; five brothers, Brucy Gray (Ethel), Edward Gray (Joyce), Maceo Gray, James Gray (Carol), and Everette Gray (Sharon); one sister, Mary Gray Batts (Marshall), and a host of nieces, nephews and relatives. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made to Olivia Gray Hervey's Endowment Scholarship Fund at Prairie View A&M University, Office of Development, PO Box 393, Prairie View, Texas .77446.



Olivia is preceded in death by her parents, Wilmer O. Gray, Sr. and Ocie Bell Gray, Siblings;











Continued AKA Page 1

and built a sisterhood in 1908.

The organization has now grown to more than 300,000 members internationally and has been pivotal in watershed moments have impacted that American history. Through narration, interviews, and archival assets, viewers will see how Alpha Kappa Alpha impacted the Harlem Renaissance, World War II, NASA, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) all culminating in the election of the first woman, African American and Asian American Vice President of the United States of America.

Interviews include Alpha Kappa Alpha International President and CEO Dr. Glover, Vice Glenda President Kamala Harris, Miss Universe Ireland 2019 Fionnghuala O'Reilly, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt and many more.

"Telling our own story is essential to preserving our history and uplifting the culture," said Dr. Glover. "Alpha Kappa Alpha's remarkable 113-year journey is punctuated by stories of history makers, ceiling breakers, public servants and ordinary women who have changed the course of American history. Through this beautifully written and narrated odyssey, this film highlights, in undeniable ways, the vision, courage, tenacity, determination and power of Black women while dispelling any age-

old questions about the relevance of HBCUs and the Divine 9."

The film production marks another first for AKA. The sorority is the first African American Greek-letter organization to distribute a full-length, feature documentary film. TWENTY PEARLS premiered on Friday, March 26, 2021 on Comcast Xfinity Black Experience

and Comcast Xfinity platforms, xfinity.com, XfinityFlex internet and Xfinity Mobile.

The documentary will now be distributed across North America through On Demand to Atlantic Telephone Cable, Bardstown Cable, Cass Cable TV Inc., Charter Communications, and more. Check your cable guide for availability.

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



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the U.S. Constitution and the two factions that grew out of the conflict over how powerful the federal government should be. Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, developed a movement known as the Federalists" It is an established fact that public policy is the who wanted a strong central government. On the result of ideas that start with people, who create other hand, Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary interest groups. Interest groups usually form on

ing in the U.S. House of

Representatives and the

U.S. Senate is the by-

product of a 1787 battle

over the ratification of

of State, advocated for "States Rights". The coalesced Federalists around business, and the "States Rights" people around an agrarian (rural)

society.

This bit of history is important today because we are faced with a Republican Party no longer committed to "Protecting and Defending the Constitution against all

enemies foreign and domestic", but preserving and protecting their own interest in spite of the Constitution and the 13th,14th and 15th amendments that provide equal protection under the law and protection of the rights of all.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Public Policy and The

Republican Party

When we understand that political parties are the result of battles over issues that compete, such as who should be able to vote and how those in power may limit the rights of others, then we have reached a point that requires public policy, reflected in proposed legislation, that must not be blocked.

We the people, following the Constitution, which does not require a "Republican Party", have the ability to vote out of office all those elected officials who have decided to follow a Republican Party mantra that votes "political party" instead

of the will of the people; or those who refuse to allow a discussion of ideas followed by a reasoned vote based on the issues and not party loyalty.

We the people in every state must look at who is running for office next year; we must look at all 43 of those states that have voter suppression laws totalling over 253 legislative proposals and we must organize just as "Black Votes Matter" in Atlanta has done. We must follow their examples and bring pressure on those corporations that support those elected officials advocating the voter suppression laws and we must continue voter registration to ensure that we the people outnumber Republican interest by 2022. We can make public policy more important than the Republican Party. Let's get busy.

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I wondered how long expressions of empathy would continue to be front and center in the minds of Americans following the hate-fueled multiple murders of Asian women in and near Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. John Warren

both sides of an issue, and

issues give birth to pro-

posed rules and potential

laws that reflect the pre-

vailing views growing out

of the initial issues with

Constitution never pro-

vided for political parties

as we know them today.

The party system we have

today associated with our

government now operat-

States

its pros and cons.

The United

To be clear, two of the victims of Robert Aaron Long's homicidal mania were not of Asian ancestry. But their proximity to clearly and stereotypically identifiable Asian ethnic tropes brought them within the sights of the killer.

The fact that most people have already forgotten the names of the eight victims murdered at three Asian American spas in the Atlanta area tends to strengthen the argument that generally speaking, empathy for "the other" is fleeting.

When we fail to stay in touch with our humanity and abandon our ability to have empathy for all people, we fall into the trap of enabling those among us who use hate and fear as tools to separate us in order to serve their greed and lust for power.

At many points along the path of American history, the ugly truths of our country are shrouded in the shadows of lies, misinformation and ignorance. Sometimes these truths emerge from the shadows, and we even hear some Blacks and Asians demonize Asians. It is common knowledge that some Black folks speak disparagingly about merchants of Asian ancestry who operate businesses in Black communities. Recently, there are reports of Sery Kim, Congressional candidate of Korean ancestry from Texas and a supporter of Donald Trump, speaking publicly about people of Chinese ancestry, saying that she does not "want them here at all." Rather than drawing gasps and condemnation from her audience. her remarks generated cheers and applause.

The modern-day "othering" of people of color in America and elsewhere is a direct result of Western imperialism and colonialism. For the sake of their stability, these socioeconomic processes required creating and maintaining the global myth of white supremacy. Europeans used white supremacy to place themselves at the top of the social hierarchy in lands they controlled. They also maneuvered the inhabitants of color into

opposing each other based upon their ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

"Divide and conquer" is not merely a trite and meaningless saying. It is a political, social and economic strategy that has resulted in the successful looting of entire continents by a few relatively small countries in the western end of the Eurasian land mass. By creating separate classes of "haves" and "have nots," European imperialists created tensions between identifiable by forcing Hutus and groups that prevented them from joining forces and throwing off their class oppressors.

illustrate how this has been done and its disastrous effects.

In the 1980s, the world watched in horror as a conflict between Hutus lar form of "othering" in and Tutsis in Rwanda resulted in the deaths of thousands of men, women and children. But little thought was given to the fact that the schism between these two peoples had been exacerbated for decades in large part by the Belgian colonial administrators who ruled over the lands that were to become Rwanda and Burundi. The Belgian the



Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

"between the two groups Tutsis to carry ethnic identity cards. To create a division, the Belgians allowed only Two very clear cases Tutsis to obtain a higher education or hold positions of limited economic power within the colonial structure.

> The British did a simithe colonial lands that were to become Sudan. By encouraging Islam in the northern part of that colony and severely restricting it in the south, a religious divide developed. Additionally, the British invested heavily in the north - considered Arab - but underdeveloped the south, which they identified more with their East African Colonies.

Church Directory



fied because of a perceived threat or a need to stand one's ground? 4) I can't believe this.

Mr. Floyd's disbelief that a transaction with an alleged counterfeit bill could cost him his life at the hands of someone who he had worked with. The shock from emergency personnel who clearly saw the signs of distress yet were not allowed to render assis-

John Thomas III, Editor, *The Christian* Recorder

tance. The horror of rookie police officers out on their training patrol witnessing a superior crushing the life out of a restrained suspect. We all cannot believe the cruel brutality of Supremacy—yet it plays before our collective eyes daily with its deadly con-

grieving children, a heartbroken community, the lost potential of what could and should have been. Even though his death has become a symbol of the cost of institutional racism for Black people, Mr. Floyd was a real man with real people who mourn him and were White robbed of his presence in their lives.

6) I'm dead.

Jesus's death was a public lynching complete with a gambling show. The world has borne witness to Mr. Floyd's lynchingmany anguished, others cheering, and some nonchalant—in the same way the that spectators watched Jesus hang His head on Golgotha as the sun set.

7) I can't breathe!

The most well-known Between 1920 and phrase that embodies how

was first seared into our memories when we watched Eric Garner have the life choked out of him. On May 25, 2020, over 600 years of global anti-Blackness were distilled into a single moment when a white cop literally ripped the spirit out of a Black man. We remember that Jesus committed His spirit to God as his lungs collapsed from the crucifix-

ultimate price for our eternal salvation, we must also remember those who daily pay the price of the legacy of the brutal and inveterate violence of White Supremacy. Our prayer to make it "on Earth as it is in Heaven" is only as good as the witness and daily steps we take to make sure that Jesus, George Floyd, and so many others have not died in vain. Amen.



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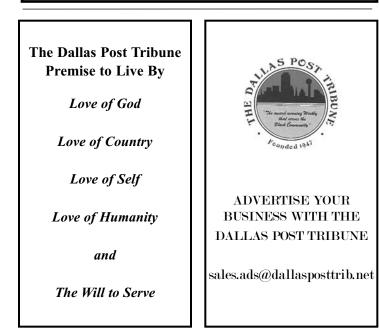


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Judge orders release of ex-Dallas cop arrested in killings

By JAKE BLEIBERG

DALLAS (AP) — A judge on Wednesday ordered the release of a former Dallas police officer accused of ordering two killings in 2017 after prosecutors said that they don't have enough evidence to move forward with the capital murder case against him.

After listening to testimony by a Dallas homicide detective, Dallas County Criminal Court Judge Audrey Moorehead said there was no probable cause to hold Bryan Riser. He was released from jail late Wednesday afternoon, according to the Dallas County sheriff's office.

The 13-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department was fired after his colleagues arrested him in March on charges in an alleged murder-for-hire scheme.

Riser spoke briefly as with the he left jail. "This department that I used to love ... disrespected me," Riser

said.

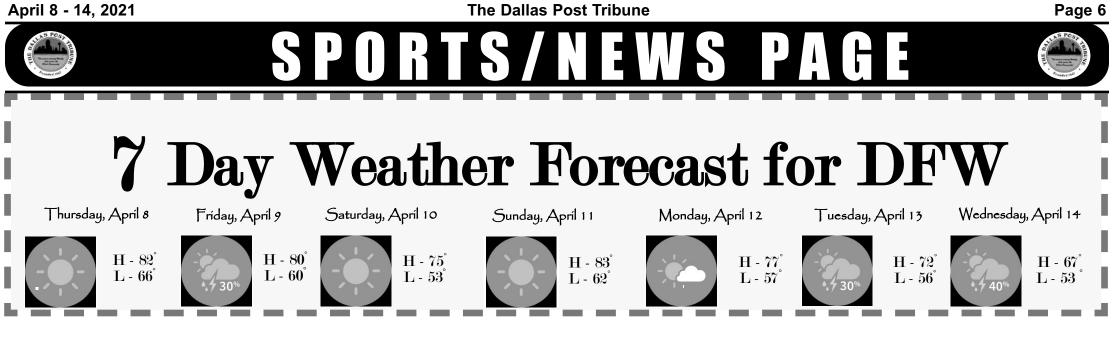
hearing During а Wednesday to decide whether the case should go forward to a grand jury to consider an indictment, prosecutors disagreed detective's assessment that they had enough evidence to prosecute.

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2060	Weekly Grand Overall Odds are 1 in 3.95	\$2	4/11/21	10/8/21
2259	7-11-21® Overall Odds are 1 in 4.87	\$1	4/14/21	10/11/21
2245	Million Dollar Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.27	\$20	4/14/21	10/11/21
2254	\$500,000 Extreme Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.75	\$10	4/22/21	10/19/21
2252	\$5,000 Extreme Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.98	\$1	4/25/21	10/22/21
2219	Mega 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.05	\$20	4/29/21	10/26/21

ed business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, **programbling**, or © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission, PLAY RESPONSIBLY





Woods was driving almost 90 mph when he crashed SUV near LA

By STEFANIE DAZIO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tiger Woods was driving nearly 90 mph twice the posted speed limit — on a downhill stretch of road when he lost control of an SUV and crashed in a wreck that seriously injured the golf superstar, authorities said Wednesday.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva blamed the Feb. 23 crash outside Los Angeles solely on excessive speed and Woods' loss of control behind the wheel. The athlete will not face any citations for his third high-profile collision in 11 years.

"The primary causal factor for this traffic collision was driving at a speed unsafe for the road conditions and the inability to negotiate the curve of the roadway," the sheriff told a news conference.

Woods was driving 84 to 87 mph (135 to 140 that the golfer tried to not remember driving. At nament, which begins kph) in an area with a brake, and investigators the time of the wreck, Thursday.



FILE - In this Feb. 23, 2021, file photo, a crane is used to lift a vehicle following a rollover accident involving golfer Tiger Woods, in the Rancho Palos Verdes suburb of Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu,

speed limit of 45 mph (72 kph), Villanueva said.

The stretch of road is known for wrecks and drivers who frequently hit high speeds. Due to the steepness of the terrain, a runaway truck escape lane is available just beyond where Woods crashed.

There was no evidence

believe Woods may have inadvertently stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake pedal in a panic, said sheriff's Capt. James Powers, who oversees the sheriff's station closest to the crash site.

Documents show that Woods told deputies he did not know how the crash occurred and did

Woods was recovering from a fifth back surgery, which took place two months earlier.

The 45-year-old athlete has never gone an entire year without playing, dating back to his first PGA Tour event as a 16-yearold in high school. He had hoped to play this year in the Masters tour-

Abbott won't throw pitch, rebuffing MLB

— Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Monday that he won't throw the ceremonial first pitch as planned at the Texas America's pastime is not Rangers' home opener the latest jab in a fight that's pushing corporate America into the political battle over voting rights.

The Republican governor informed the Rangers via a letter, citing Major League Baseball's decision to move the MLB All-Star Game from Atlanta in response to Georgia's sweeping new voting laws, which include new restrictions on voting by mail and greater legislative control run.

the Toronto Blue Jays in

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) he will no longer participate in and that Texas won't seek to host any future MLB events.

> "It is shameful that only being influenced by partisan political politics, but also perpetuating false political narratives," Abbott said.

> Major League Baseball and the Texas Rangers did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Liberal activists are putting pressure on companies to denounce nationwide GOP efforts to tighten state voting laws. A joint statement from executives at nearly 200 companies, including HP, over how elections are Microsoft, PayPal, Target, Twitter, Uber and Under Abbott's decision came Armour, took aim at state hours before the team was legislation "threatening to set to take the field against make voting more difficult" and said "elections the Dallas suburb of are not improved" when lawmakers impose new In the letter, Abbott said barriers to voting.

Arlington.



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MSNBC apologizes for showing wrong video of congressman

MSNBC apologized on Wednesday for mistakenly airing video of another Black congressman while reporting a day earlier on the death of U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings of Florida.

During the report, the network aired archived video of U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Democrat from Mississippi. The report correctly included some still pictures of Hastings.

Senate gives Biden a big tool to work around GOP filibuster

BY LISA MASCARO



FILE - In this March 6, 2021, file photo Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a powerful new tool, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has fresh options for potentially advancing President Joe Biden's infrastructure package and other priorities past Republican obstruction in the 50-50 split Senate. do all they can to halt Biden, but an official parliamentarian's opinion this week is a potential gamechanger. It unleashes multiple options for Democrats to advance parts of Biden's agenda including immigration and Medicare legislation with 51 votes in the 100member Senate rather than the 60 typically needed to move major legislation past filibuster of trying to change the filwould be a very heavy political lift in the divided and tradition-devoted Senate.

The White House was heartened by the parliamentarian's ruling but isn't giving up on support from some Republicans, despite their strong opposition to paying for much of the infrastructure plan with a corporate tax increase. The president, said press secretary Jen Psaki, "continues to believe ... that there is a bipartisan path forward."

However, it is clear that the deep partisan polarization in Washington has led to a new era in legislating. The seasoned policy wonks on Capitol Hill are digging deep into the procedural toolbox to find ways around the gridlock that typically leaves Congress at a standstill.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell threats. There has been talk chided Biden for partisanship, and declared Tuesday Republicans still pledge to ibuster rules, but that that his side would not be supporting the \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package that Biden wants to pay for with hike the tax on

Continued Tool Page 7

REMEMBERING Black Wall Street

My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis

In a few weeks Tulsa, Oklahoma and the rest of the universe will celebrate the Tulsa Massacre Centennial: 1921 – 2021. In June, 1921, an eighteen(18)hour violent riot, broke out destroying Tulsa's Greenwood District , which was referred to as Black Wall Street by "White" Wall Street. It was the center of prosperity, with black owned business lining both sides of the streets, banks, hotels and newspa-Former State pers. Senator Maxine Horner, a longtime advocate of the Tulsa Race Massacre created a commission to study the attack on the city's black community by a white mob.

The Tulsa Massacre is well documented. Many, many stories, books, documentaries and now a 'movie', have surfaced about this time and the Black Wall Street era. But as a Texan, I married into "the Tulsa family". For all holidays, other important dates, when not with my family in South Texas, we were in Tulsa, Oklahoma or Los Angeles

planning started last year, I decided to call the 'best friend families" we were close to. I remember vividly Ralph "Waldo" McIntosh, one of two black Tulsa Police Officers who worked tirelessly on the Greenwood District Memorial Museum after his law enforcement days. "Waldo" was married to Henrietta, a stunning socialite. "Waldo" was the Greenwood Chamber President at one time and made monumental policy progress for the Greenwood including an invited trip to the White House. After turn of the century there two phone calls this week, I was delighted to talk with Henrietta, who is now 99 years old and entirely doing well. She is in the process of donating all of "Waldo's" memorabilia to the museum.

In the early '70, my husband kept our sons and the other young nieces/nephews/cousins captivated with his stories return from the Korean Marcus in Dallas, drop-War. He was the daily



Dr. J. Ester Davis

District before moving on to Dallas in the 60's, At the were reportedly 800 oil companies in Tulsa. A `1901 historic drilling boom soon made Tulsa the "oil capital of the world". The affluence of Tulsa afforded African Americans many luxury conveniences. The black -owned hotels were filled with young bachelors who worked for the oil tycoons. Many were chauffeurs who were kept about Tulsa after his busy driving to Neiman ping their children off to of 1921 was all racial motivated and the natives still contend that Oklahoma attempted to erase this chapter of Tulsa's dark history . . . and that sounds about normal, but thanks to unsung warriors like "Waldo", his bride Henrietta, Senator Horner, a black female and many, many others it is a historic beacon of determined significance and a quest for wholeness. Please join the descen-

dants of Black Wall Street and beyond in remembrance ceremonies.

Website

Continued **Tool** Page 6

Senate gives Biden a big tool to work around GOP filibuster

corporations.

"For a president who ran as a bipartisan, I haven't seen that yet," McConnell told reporters in Kentucky.

McConnell said Biden is a "terrific person I know him well, I like him. We've been friends for years. A moderate he has not been."

While congressional Democrats had already planned on resorting to "budget reconciliation," a special, budget-linked procedure with a 51-vote threshold to pass parts of Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package, the parliamentarian's ruling opens the door to using it on certain other priorities.

Talks are swirling around an immigration overhaul that could provide a pathway to citizenship for some. There is also discussion about using the process to lower the Medicare retirement age from 65 to 60 and other agenda items.

Schumer's office said no decisions have been made. Any action still involves wresting consensus from all 50 senators in

process can potentially be used multiple times this year -- rather than just two or three times, as had been expected.

Typically, Congress has one budget resolution every fiscal year, or two each calendar year since the fiscal year starts Oct. 1. The parliamentarian signaled if the annual budget resolution is revised, the process can be used again.

The filibuster enables any single senator to object to consideration of legislation or other matters, and can usually only be overcome with a 60vote threshold — a tall order in the now evenly split chamber.

Democrats hold the majority in the 50-50 Senate because the party's vice president, Kamala Harris, can cast a tiebreaking vote.

While Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., and other leading progressives have advocated changing the filibuster rules, more Democrats centrist including Joe Manchin of West Virginia are not on board.

driver for a Mr. Phillips of college and tending to the Tulsa2021.org. Like on with my husband's family. When the centennial Standard Oil & Gas elderly wealthy. The riot Facebook.

Continued Food Page 1

-issioner Roy Brooks; Jav Jackson, a representative from Devan Commissioner Allan's office; Fort Worth City Gyna Councilwomen Bivens and Kelly Allen and Annette Gray; Robinson, a listing agent with James Walker Realty, were among community leaders who attended the luncheon event.

The Howell Foundation has distributed more than 2400 USDA fresh food boxes – about 1 million pounds of food - to North Texas families since last June. Since the onset of the pandemic, the North Texas Food Bank saw demand for food double between March 20, 2020 and February 28, 2021, the agency recently reported. Further, 40 percent of the people served by the Food Bank's partners during this time were new clients. To meet an ongoing demand for fresh food, the Howell Foundation plans to expand its distribution operations – and other social services - into Tarrant County in late

2021, Chris Howell said. Previously, the foundation distributed food boxes and personal protection equipment at Dallas's Skyline Ranch & Event Center, at Dallas College Mountain View Campus and at Tarrant County College Southeast Campus, among other sites.

At last week's gathering, Howell sought support from elected leaders for a needed 20,000square foot warehouse to increase distribution of the federal USDA Farmers to Families food boxes and to expand the foundation's offerings to include job training, computer skills and other services to help families re-enter the career market after the pandemic.

The federal Farmers to Families Food Box Program is part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Trump Administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal program supplies area food pantries and local agencies with boxes containing up to 35 pounds of fresh fruit, potatoes,



Food boxes were regularly distributed at sites across North Texas during the final months of President Trump's administration. However, the program's contracts with agencies who deliver food boxes expires at the end of April. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

rice, pasta, frozen meat, butter, cheese and eggs to distribute to parents and children living in the nation's fresh food deserts and to those affected by job losses caused by the pandemic.

Food boxes were regularly distributed at sites across North Texas during the final months of President Trump's administration. However, the program's contracts with agencies who deliver food boxes expires at the end of April. "We want to...continue to serve our community. The need is not going to go away," Chris Howell told the city and county leaders. "We can't do that now because we don't have the space to do it. We don't have a facility in Fort Worth."

Brooks, one of Tarrant County's senior elected officials, acknowledged a rise in food insecurity across North Texas, but said the county is limited in how it might assist the foundation with its expansion.

"I support it personally," he said of the effort. "We need to give it some thought. creative Sometimes, you can slide into a gray area if you're creative enough." The Howells are the first North Texas non-profit leaders to call publicly for a continuation of the federal food box program – and to suggest that it might be needed for far longer than the next 12 months.

the Democratic caucus, progressives and centrists alike, which could prove daunting. But spokesman Justin Goodman welcomed the parliamentarian's opinion as "an important step forward that this key pathway is available to Democrats if needed."

Using the budget rules to pass sweeping legislation on a party line vote is not new. Congress used the budget reconciliation process last month to approve Biden's sweeping \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue despite no Republican support.

First used in 1980, the process has been employed most years since, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

In 2017, a Congress controlled by Republicans used budget reconciliation to approve the Trump-era GOP tax cuts on a party line vote. In 2010, Democrats used it for the Affordable Care Act. known as Obamacare. George W. Bush relied on reconciliation twice to approve tax cuts, including once when Vice President Dick Cheney cast the tie breaking vote.

But the opinion by the nonpartisan Senate parliamentarian, Elizabeth McDonough, late Monday the means

Using the budget reconciliation could provide a short-term fix, but it is not without drawbacks. It involves a cumbersome process and sometimes all-night Senate sessions called "vote-a-ramas" as senators offer multiple amendments.

Moreover, the budget tools have other limits in that the proposals need to hew to budgetary guidelines, which means not all bills would qualify.

Already, the parliamentarian earlier this year rejected a proposal to hike the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour as part of the COVID-19 package because it did not meet budgetary guidelines.

Voting rights, gun violence bills and other legislation would likely run into similar limits.

Those seeking changes to the filibuster rules welcomed the budget tool but said changes to the filibuster practice are still needed.

"It is great that Senate Democrats are going to be able to pass many of their economic priorities with a simple majority," said Eli Zupnick of Fix our Senate, a group advocating filibuster changes.

But he said "that won't be nearly enough if the filibuster remains as a tool."



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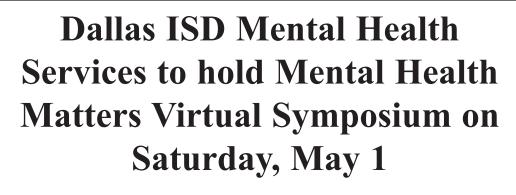
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BY THE HUB



Dallas ISD's Mental Health Services will be hosting a *Mental Health Matters Virtual Symposium* on Saturday, May 1,' from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., featuring recorded presentations and a live Q&A.

There will be English and Spanish presentations on topics such as parenting, bullying, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and more.

The symposium will feature speakers from community partners and the district's Social and Emotional Learning, Counseling Services, and Mental Health Services departments. For more information or to register, please visit www.mentalhealthmattersdallas.com

Once the event is complete, English presentations will be overdubbed in Spanish. All presentations will be available on the website for on-demand access following the event.

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SESSION 1 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

- Community Resources for Families
- · Understanding and Supporting Students with ADHD
- Parenting with Connection
- Resiliencia: Una Habilidad de Vida para Enfrentar la Nueva Normalidad

SESSION 2 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- Everyday Mindfulness
- · Suicide Prevention: A Public Health Problem -- You are the Tool We've Been Missing
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- La Conciencia Plena para Los Padres y Cuidadores

SESSION 3 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

- Coping with COVID
- Supporting Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth
- · Mental Health & Wellness Matters: You are NOT "Crazy"
- Criando con una Conexion

SESSION 4 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES): How Trauma Impacts Children
- Recognizing and Responding to Anxiety
- 10 Ways to Bring Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Home
- Oculto a la Vista



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Photo by Brian Guilli