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VOLUME 75 NUMBER 49

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 10 - 16, 2023

Dallas ISD Receive Thousands of New Shoes for Students

Thanks to Soles4Souls, Cambridge Holdings and Community Partners



DALLAS, Texas – Dallas Independent School District's Homeless Education Program will receive thousands of new athletic shoes for students experiencing homelessness from global nonprofit Soles4Souls. Through its 4EveryKid program,

Soles4Souls partners with local community leaders, philanthropists, and companies to raise the funds needed to provide shoes for this vulnerable population of students.

With the support of Cambridge Holdings and other donors, the program is projected to provide more than 20,000 pairs of shoes and socks to underserved kids over the next five years—with the hopes of expanding the program

across the Metroplex to serve every student in need.

The Homeless Education Program provides continuous support to thousands of DISD students experiencing homelessness, with the goal of removing the barriers that prevent them from enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

“Footwear is an item that, generally, cannot be purchased through grant

Continue Shoes Page 5



A house in East Austin in the Windsor Park neighborhood on Nov. 22, 2021. Photo/Credit: Michael Gonzalez/The Texas

Billions in property tax cuts need Texas voters' approval before taking effect. Here's what you need to know.

Legislation passed this month would raise the state's homestead exemption to \$100,000, lower schools' tax rates and put an appraisal cap on residential and commercial properties, among other measures. But voters must approve a constitutional amendment first.

BY KAREN BROOKS HARPER/Texas Tribune

A \$12.7 billion package of property tax cuts goes before voters later this year, promising to deliver savings to millions of property owners in Texas suffering from skyrocketing tax bills.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed the legislation creating the cuts last weekend, officially closing months of negotiations among the state's top Republicans. But before they can go into effect, Texas voters will

first have to decide in a constitutional election on Nov. 7 whether to allow the state to spend billions in taxpayer money — mainly collected from Texans during the past two years — to pay for the massive cuts. If approved, an outcome that seems likely given voters' support of tax cuts in the past, the changes would be applied for the 2023 tax bills due in January.

Continue Tax Page 5

White Boaters in Montgomery Messed Around and Found Out

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



Within moments, several African American men came to the guard's rescue, pulverizing the aggressors. Photo Credit: NNPA Fi;e

UPDATE:

Montgomery Police Chief Darryl J. Albert announced assault charges were filed against Richard Roberts, 48; Allen Todd, 23; and Zachery Shipman, 25; at a Tuesday news conference. Albert said one of the men is in custody and

the two others are expected to turn themselves over to police Tuesday afternoon.

“There was no need for this event to take the path it did,” Albert told reporters. He said investigators do not believe the incident was racially motivated. “The people of Montgomery,

we're better than that. We're a fun city and we don't want this type of activity to shed a dark eye on what this city's all about.”

In a quintessential mess around and find out moment, a group of white boaters on the riverfront in

Montgomery, Alabama, attacked a Black security guard simply for doing his job.

Within moments, several African American men came to the guard's rescue, pulverizing the aggressors.

Continue Boaters Page 5

THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 19TH ANNUAL BIG TEX® CHOICE AWARDS FINALISTS

The final countdown to three of the most coveted food titles in all of Texas begins. The State Fair of Texas is Proud to Present The 19th

Annual Big Tex® Choice Awards Finalists.

On Sunday, August 27, three winners will be crowned in the categories of: “BEST

TASTE – SAVORY,” “BEST TASTE SWEET,” and “MOST CREATIVE.” The competition began in early July with an impressive 57 entries represented by 37 concessionaires. Of those entries, 36 WERE SELECTED AS SEMI-FINALISTS. Each entry was evaluated on four Fair-food elements: uniqueness, creativity, presentation, and taste. After some tasty tests and delicious dishes, votes were cast, and the results are finally in! Now the top 10 finalists must present themselves to a prestigious

panel of celebrity judges in hopes of securing one of the top spots. If your favorite entry did not make the final cut, fret not, concessionaires may still choose to introduce their creation at their stand as a new food during this year's Fair.

Without delay, the State Fair of Texas is happy to announce the 10 finalists that will be competing for the titles of “Best Taste – Savory,” “Best Taste – Sweet,” and “Most Creative,” in the 2023 Big Tex Choice Awards competition.

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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

“Back to School Back to Church”

“My Day”

By Dr. J. Ester Davis

If our children are to understand America, they must first understand the black church. So, as we dress them up to go back to school, let’s not forget to dress up their minds for prayer,

Personally, my heart breaks when there are no children in church. And yes, we cite all the reasons why our churches are empty of children, mothers and father, too. The bare truth is that our “unchurched” attendance in churches across America started before the pandemic. Three (3,000) churches started before COVID 19 and 4,500 closed that same year. Thousand of churches close every year. Between 6,000 and 10,000 churches in the United States are dying.

For Black History Month, we talk about our leaders, their contributions to society, their education, their beatings, struggles, but all of those leaders had a solid religious background. For a people systematically brutalized and debased by an inhumane system, followed by a century of Jim Crow racism, graduating to the highest prison population in the world, let us look back to history and future of the black church as a portal of what is possible when we, the people assemble,

pray and march in the name of a mighty higher power. To put it plainly, all our past eloquent black leaders were raised in church. They dressed, combed their hair and were carried to church, attended Sunday School....

every Sunday, sometimes all day. We have a generation that speaks of those times. A generation!

I followed closely the tense days leading up to the special election in Georgia when the Rev. Raphael Warnock, United States Senator, the Pastor of Dr. King’s Church in Atlanta, was elected the first African American ever sent to the Senate from his State and the eleventh(11th)Black American to be elevated to the high honor. The first had been Hiram Revels of Mississippi in 1870, and like Warnock, Revels had been a minister. During Reconstruction, three(3)of the first 16 African American Members of Congress were ministers, and most of the black office holders at that level of government in that era were ministers. Somebody took them to church. All of this is a thunderous reminder to me of the vital role the Black Church has played marching toward ‘a more perfect union’.

In 2021 I wrote a prolific

story on *The Colored Missionary Baptist Church, organized 1859, in Roysse City, Texas. I was invited by the new pastor, a former member of my last choir. My research on that story traveled back in time to the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade up to the birth of the Black Lives Matter Movement. In 1859, ‘two-or-three’ slaves gathered in Jesus’ name for pray and organized this church. The nitty-gritty is Black Churches amounted to a world within a world. The Black Churches were the 1st institutions built by Black People, independently run and operated by Black Peoplesuccessfully. All of the historically black colleges and halls of higher education were ordained in the black church. And now, we are going to vicariously toss it loosely to the wind and deny our children and the universe, this victorious legacy.

“Back to School Back to Church” is one sentence. One thought. One key. How can we criticize those who wish to ban books about slavery, when we are placing a ban on the black church. If our children are to understand America, they MUST first.... understand the black church.

*The Colored



By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Missionary Baptist Church after 47 years changed their name to New Hope Baptist Church, Roysse City, Texas and built their first building in 1914. JOIN... South Dallas Community Choir 3rd Reunion and the State of Texas Historical Society in September, 2023.

TRAVELING.. the next twelve months? Listen to YouTube/Ester Davis Network Special Edition on Passports with the Honorable Felicia Pitre, Dallas County District Clerk. New rules. New information.

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

Part Two of The Series on New Hope BC and their 150th Anniversary is online w/Dr. Rev. Mayor Ron Jones, a fascinating interview, at DFW BAM and The Ester Davis Network on youtube.

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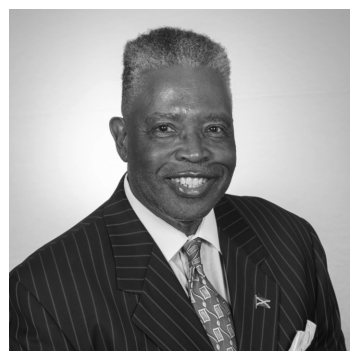
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Not Guilty. I Did Nothing Wrong. What Is Mr. Trump’s Definition Of Nothing Wrong?

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



Dr. James B. Ewers Jr.

Words and phrases can get tangled up in meaning and interpretation. Subjectivity and not objectivity sometimes cloud the true meaning of them.

Former president Donald Trump has taken America on a merry go-round when it comes to right and wrong and good and evil. Since his election in 2016, traditional regulations and laws have been challenged.

He has infiltrated the rule of law with bogus and illegal interpretations.

Unfortunately, he believes his own lies and half-truths.

During this path of civic destruction, he has convinced many Americans to join him. What they see in Donald Trump is beyond me.

Lying is contagious and too many Americans have caught this illness from him. It seems to be spreading. Can we stop it? It depends upon who you ask.

Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey has been a sharp critic of Mr. Trump and says that the 2020 election was not stolen, and that Joe Biden is the president. Asa Hutchinson, former governor of Arkansas has also said that the election results were real and there was no tampering.

Both are running for president on the GOP ticket however they haven’t made

a dent in the polling yet. We’ll see what happens as we get closer.

Mr. Trump has a big lead now with over 50% of the Republicans favoring him.

The big question facing him is the number of lawsuits. The allegations are serious, and trials will be forthcoming. Don’t forget, Georgia is still coming.

The latest lawsuit filed by Special Prosecutor Jack Smith in Washington DC has four counts to it including conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding.

Former US Attorney General Bill Barr believes this lawsuit has the best chance of finding him guilty of a crime. Barr said, “Trump is toast even if half the allegations are true.” He is certainly assertive in his comments. I just hope he doesn’t have to walk them back.

The former president has steadfastly held onto the 1st Amendment in defense of his rights. However, many legal scholars believe that his argument will not hold up in a court of law.

His refrain of “I did nothing wrong” isn’t holding any water except among his base of supporters. You don’t just take classified documents to your house, nor do you call the Georgia secretary of state asking for more votes so that you can win the election.

Do you know of any president in the history of our country who has told his vice president to scrub the election because it doesn’t count? He wanted to make a mockery of our democracy.

He believes it’s his Republic and not our Republic. His thinking is

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ON CHRISTIAN DUTIES

GALATIANS 6:1-18



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this final chapter in the book of Galatians, Paul issued some vital instructions on Christian duties. Galatians 6:1-18 may be outlined as follows: I. Instructions on Restoring an Errant Brother – Galatians 6:1-5; II. Instructions with Regards to Sharing – Galatians 6:6-10; III. Concluding Instructions for the Galatian Believers – Galatians 6:11-18.

I. Instructions on Restoring an Errant Brother – Galatians 6:1-5

In verses 1-3, Paul lays out instructions on how believers ought to minister to a brother overtaken in a fault. The expression “overtaken in a fault” in verse 1 can mean either that the one overtaken was surprised by the fault itself and did not mean to fall into sin, or it can mean the person was surprised when someone discovered his sin. In either case, the offender is a Christian whom his fellow Christians are to restore.

The word for “restore” in Galatians 6:1 was used of

mending nets (Matt. 4:21; Mark 1:19). It is the responsibility of mature or spiritual believers to restore a sinning brother or sister to usefulness in the church. Those who are mature in the faith should look out and help those who are struggling with sin, and they are to restore them. They are to do so in a spirit of humility or meekness. The one who restores needs to take heed to himself, being mindful of his or her own potential for falling into sin. When we restore a sinning brother, we are relieving that one of the heavy burden he or she bears. When we do this, we demonstrate Christ-like love and “so fulfill the law of Christ” (v. 2). The law of Christ is “Love one another” (John 13:34; 15:12).

In verse 3, Paul issues a warning against pride. Pride or conceit can work against believers acting a compassionate way in helping an errant brother. As believers in verses 4-5, we must evaluate our own work according to God's standards, and not

man's. Each believer is responsible for his own work before God.

II. Instructions with Regards to Sharing – Galatians 6:6-10

In verse 6, Christians are responsible to “communicate” with those who faithfully teach them. The word for “communicate” means “to share with.” This refers to financial help. Those in the church who devote themselves to instructing the saints are worthy of support (I Cor. 9:14; Phil. 4:15-18; I Tim. 5:17-18). Paul lays out a universal principle in applying verse 7, that says: “one reaps what he sows” (I Cor. 9:10-11; II Cor. 9:6). If the Galatians did not generously support honest, faithful teachers, they would reap emptiness and even hardship in their lives. This principle is restated in Galatians 6:8, where the apostle gives it a wider application: namely, that sowing to the flesh reaps “corruption”, and sowing to the Spirit reaps “life everlasting.” One who directs his

life toward pleasing the flesh will reap corruption, or moral decay. A Christian sowing to the Spirit will direct his life toward the things of God.

In verse 9, Paul admonished believers to not grow weary in doing good. Paul urged believers to remain diligent in doing good, realizing that the basic principle of sowing and reaping is unalterable and that the harvest of divine blessing will come in God's good time. In verse 10, Paul admonished believers to do good to all people as we have opportunity. Our loving concern is to be expressed for all people, especially those of the “household of faith.”

III. Concluding Instructions for the Galatian Believers – Galatians 6:11-18

In verse 11, Paul wrote the conclusion of this epistle in capital letters after the rest of the epistle was penned mostly in lowercase letters. Many scholars affirm that Paul wrote with large letters due to being afflicted with weak eyesight. In verses 12-13, the

Judaizers who insisted that circumcision was necessary for salvation (Acts 15:1) were only men-pleasers, seeking to make a good impression outwardly and afraid of persecution. In addition, they wanted to boast about the number of those they hoped to win over to circumcision as a religious and merit-earning rite.

In verse 14, Paul's boast was in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, whereas, with the Judaizers, the cross was an object of shame. Paul viewed the cross as an object of glorying. The Judaizers gloried in the flesh; however, Paul gloried in the Saviour. The “cross” speaks of the atonement of Christ with which Paul was identified (Gal. 2:20) and by which the world was crucified to Paul and he to the world.

In verse 15, as believers view the cross of Christ and their new position with respect to the world, no outward religious symbol or lack of it means anything as a way

of salvation. The only thing that matters is to be a part of the new creation by the new birth (II Cor. 5:17). In verse 16, Paul announced that “peace and mercy” from God are available to those who walk according to this rule, that is, according to the message of salvation by grace through faith alone. This blessing is pronounced on believing Galatians and on believing Jews.

With verse 17, Paul asked for an end of the trouble he received from the Judaizers. Paul offered as a final proof to his critics the marks of Jesus on his body. These marks demonstrated he was a slave of Christ and not just a people-pleaser. In verse 18, Paul concludes this epistle expressing his heartfelt desire that the grace of God would be the Galatians' abiding portion. He ends this epistle reminding the Galatians of his love for them, calling them brothers.

May God Bless!

ETHNONATIONALISM – CORROSIVE AND TOXIC

By Oscar H. Blayton



Oscar H. Blayton

group of people imposing their will upon another.

Despite current geopolitical realities, the word “nation” traces its roots back to the Latin, nationem, which was used to voice the concepts of “birth, origin; breed, stock, kind, species, race of people or tribe.” And even though race is a social construct, it weighs most heavily when defining the concept of a nation.

The complex tapestry of human history has created a mishmash of concepts such as “race” and “nation.” The distinguished Irish author Seumas MacManus wrote a celebrated book titled “The Story of the Irish Race: A Popular History of Ireland.”

The Irish inhabit the island of Ireland, which sits in the north Atlantic Ocean to the northwest of the landmass many refer to as “Europe.” MacManus considered the Irish to be a homogeneous and distinct race of people separate from northern Europeans or the English. But apart from their cultural characteristics, the Irish are indistinguishable from northern Europeans and the English. To complicate matters further, the Irish are divided politically into two separate nations. Those who live in the north of the island are a part of the United Kingdom and those

who live in the south are citizens of the Republic of Ireland. How the Irish came to be considered a separate and distinct race unto themselves, while at the same time divided into two nations, is illustrative of the complexities of the concepts of race and nation.

Volkgeist

How the Irish became a separate and distinct race can be explained by what Germans call volksgeist. It is a German word that expresses the unique spirit and character of a particular people. Volkgeist encapsulates their perceived characteristics that distinguish their nation and way of life from all others. These characteristics are believed to have continued to the present from prehistoric times and are as indigenous to the land as the forests and mountains. Inherent in this concept is a sense of intergenerational continuity of thought. And this continuity of thought often is said to lead to conservative nationalism.

Conservative nationalists apply the principle of organic society to nations, believing nations emerge naturally through a volksgeist among those who want to live with others who are similar to them. And in this kernel of an idea lies a great plague of human misery. Volkgeist

speaks of the spirit of the people, but it does not define “people,” because it is understood to mean “people like us.” These individuals seek meaning and security through patriotism related to people like them and the national community. This need for meaning and security leads to a desire to maintain national unity by encouraging national pride in people like them. This also justifies a resistance to change or expanding inclusion by conservative nationalists.

Conservative nationalists are fearful of – and see as their enemies – liberal nationalists who believe the principles of balance and natural harmony apply to individuals as well as nations. Balance and harmony imply shared wealth. And shared wealth is anathema to colonialists who exploit the resources and labor of other nations.

And this brings us to ethnonationalism.

Ethnonationalism is a socio-cultural political ideology that connects a particular ethnic or cultural group and a specific territory. It asserts that the interests, rights and identity of a particular group should be preserved and protected.

Continue Oscar Page 6

BREAKING NEWS

FBI fatally shoots man in Utah who allegedly threatened Biden, Alvin Bragg and others

Agents were attempting to serve a search warrant at the Provo home of the suspect when he was shot and killed.

By Andrew Blankstein, Tom Winter, Phil McCausland and Antonio Planas/NBC

The FBI on Wednesday shot and killed a Utah man who allegedly made online threats to kill President Joe Biden and New York prosecutor Alvin Bragg while serving a warrant at his Provo home, officials said.

The investigation involved the suspect making alleged threats against politicians and public figures, according to charging documents obtained by NBC News.

The suspect was identified in charging documents as Craig Deleew Robertson.

On Monday, Robertson allegedly made a threat referencing Biden's trip to Utah this week, saying he needed to prepare his camouflage and sniper rifle.

Robertson's alleged threat to Bragg included calling him a political hack linked to George Soros and plotting to assassinate him in a parking garage, the charging documents said.

The charging documents said that Robertson mentioned many other politicians, including New York Attorney General Letitia

James, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Robertson had “intent to kill, at a minimum, D.A. Bragg and President Joe Biden,” according to the charging documents.

A senior administration official tells NBC News that Biden was briefed on the FBI raid Wednesday morning, ahead of scheduled events in New Mexico. The White House is otherwise referring all questions to the Justice Department.

Biden is scheduled to be in Utah this evening ahead of a public event on Thursday in Salt Lake City on veterans health care.

In a statement, the FBI said it “is reviewing an agent-involved shooting which occurred around 6:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 in Provo, Utah.”

“The incident began when special agents attempted to serve arrest and search warrants at a residence. The subject is deceased,” the FBI said.



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warped and woeful. It is my opinion he has made himself a laughingstock and an embarrassment to the Republican Party.

Many in his party now remain silent. They know that they can't defend the indefensible.

The DOJ is calling more Trump loyalists to testify about his time in office. His shields of protection are slowly but surely melting away. The facts are simply speaking too loudly about his improprieties.

The intersection of trial dates and rigorous campaigning dates will be here in the coming months. The scenario could well be in a trial one day and campaigning the next day. The sustainability of that schedule will not last, and his supporters will invariably fall by the wayside.

Polls have shown that it will be difficult for him to win a general election. Of course, he says something entirely different. This is what happens when your imagination gets the best of you.

If you are a part of Trump's team, your faith and belief will begin to be tested. You hear him saying not guilty now. However you know he doesn't have the final say.

Quinn Minute

Does money make people happy?

By Rix Quinn

Do you think money makes people happy? Maybe not, but it gives them lots more ways to battle sadness.

The other day I drove to a fancy neighborhood, and surveyed residents about the good and bad sides of money. I got great response before the security guard tossed me and my dog out. Here's what a few folks told me:

1. "Since I won the lottery, I've got lots more girlfriends, but lots less money."
2. "My doctor told me to lose weight, so I hired someone to exercise."
3. "I didn't start out rich, you know. I started out merely affluent."
4. "I come from a poor family. I wonder what happened to them."
5. "Yes, I'm wealthy,

- but I'm still a neat housekeeper. Today I keep neat houses in five states."
6. "My family said my husband married me for my money. I don't believe it, because his new girlfriend's not rich."
 7. "I invented a mosquito repellent, so I guess I started from scratch."
 8. "What makes you think I'm rich? And how did you get into my pool?"

- And why are you naked?"
9. "I wouldn't know if we're rich or not. I'll ask our cook."
 10. "Actually, sir, wealth is a relative thing. And my relatives were rich.
- In conclusion, I discovered that (a) I am not rich, (b) everybody I interviewed was, and (c) you should never let a security guard pat a dog who bites.

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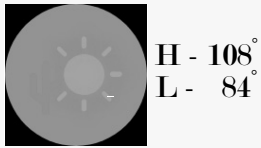
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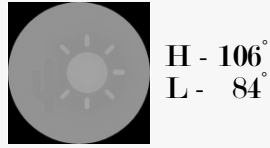
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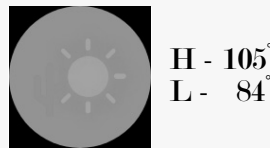
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Saturday, Aug. 12



Sunday, Aug. 13



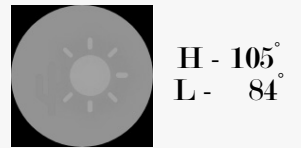
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Tuesday, Aug. 15



Wednesday, Aug. 16



PGA of America and One Hundred Black Men of New York Host Junior One Hundred Challenge



NEW YORK CITY and FRISCO, TEXAS (Aug. 7, 2023) – The PGA of America and One Hundred Black Men of New York (OHBM) have formed a strategic inclusion partnership to introduce opportunities within golf to the Junior One Hundred (JOH)

membership by hosting the Junior One Hundred Challenge at Ardsley Country Club, Aug. 7-8 in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

The partnership and Junior One Hundred Challenge opens the door for 70 local, Black college and high school-aged mem-

bers of the JOH to learn the fundamentals of the game, understand possible career opportunities within and around the \$102 billion golf industry and other industries, and showcase how golf can be pivotal to their future careers.

The JOH is a youth lead-

ership and career exposure program open to students ages 12 to 24. The program focuses on career exploration, character development, personal growth and mentorship.

The event includes a PGA Professional-led clinic; a “Leading with You”

panel discussion focused on finding inner strength and purpose through career aspirations; an address from New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks; a Career Services Resume Workshop; and a special opportunity to meet with PGA of America CEO Seth Waugh, PGA Chief Commercial Officer Jeff Price and OHBM President Aldrin Enis.

The event will also consist of a Pro-Am styled, 9-hole playing lesson with 25 JOH Members paired with PGA Professionals. Following play, each playing participant will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from OHBM to help further their education.

“The PGA of America greatly values our relationship with the One Hundred Black Men of New York, who we see as one of the most impactful, community-based organizations in New York,” said PGA of America CEO Seth Waugh. “It’s an honor to align with them to introduce this great game, and more importantly, the career opportunities these young adults can take advantage of within the growing golf industry.”

The “Leading with You” Panel will feature Troon Golf DE&I Director Kendall Murphy, PGA,

Regional Vice President of Enterprise Holdings for Long Island John Mackey, and Niara Consulting Founder Jodi Brockington, as they share their unique career journeys.

“The One Hundred Black Men of New York’s partnership with the PGA of America underscores a unique opportunity to bring golf to inner city children who otherwise might never have exposure to such an important game,” said One Hundred Black Men of New York Interim Executive Director Erik Cliette. “Our Junior One Hundred students may not immediately appreciate the opportunity before them; however, as their corporate experience deepens, and they understand that golf is a significant platform for advancement, I am confident that their appreciation for the game, the exposure, and this opportunity will deepen also.”

This is the second year OHBM has joined forces with the PGA of America; PGA REACH, the 501(c)(3) charitable foundation of the PGA of America; and PGA WORKS, a strategic initiative designed to diversify the golf industry’s workforce, to host the Junior One Hundred Challenge.

Continue SHOES Page 1

funding, so this partnership and initiative is immensely important to fully support the needs of our homeless children and youth,” said Dallas ISD District Homeless Liaison Ashley Marshall. “We are thankful to Soles4Souls, Cambridge Holdings, and all the community partners who are coming together to ensure our students have one less concern in preparing for school and can focus on their academic performance.”

Since its launch in 2020, Soles4Souls’ 4EveryKid program has shown positive changes in the lives of students experiencing homelessness. After receiving new shoes, students and teachers have reported:

- 92% increase in school attendance and engagement
- 98% increase in confidence
- 80% indicated that they feel more equal to their peers

One local student shared, “These shoes make me feel more confident and it’s a lot easier to walk around because of the nice soles on them”.

“Soles4Souls is thrilled to expand our 4EveryKid program in Dallas and work directly with the Dallas ISD Homeless Assistance Program to serve students facing homelessness and housing insecurity,” said Buddy Teaster, CEO of Soles4Souls. “Thanks to the support of Cambridge

Holdings and many generous donors, we will be able to provide these students new, high-quality sneakers, leveling the playing field with their peers, instilling confidence, and positively influencing their attendance and participation in school.”

Cambridge Holdings founder and CEO, Jean-Claude Saada said, “We are fortunate to be able to help the most vulnerable kids in our community. Shoes matter in ways that are hard to understand until you don’t have them. This will help keep them in school and feel like they are equal. We are humbled to help lead this effort and grateful to all of those who have contributed to make it possible.”

The 4EveryKid program is also supported by Lyda Hill Philanthropies as part of its commitment to empowering. Thanks to Cambridge Holdings and Lyda Hill Philanthropies, Soles4Souls has secured sixty percent of its funding goal to serve all students at Dallas ISD during the upcoming school year.

With a donation of \$20, you can provide a brand-new pair of athletic shoes for a child in need in the Dallas area and across the United States.

For more information on Soles4Souls and 4EveryKid, visit [4EveryKid.org](https://soles4souls.org). To donate, please visit https://soles4souls.org/?for m=4EK_DFW.

Continue BOATERS Page 1

Among those helping the guard was an individual dubbed “Black Aqua man” because he swam across the river to intercede.

The guard had been diligently working and requested the boaters move their vessel to allow a ship to dock.

However, the white boaters violently refused, attacking the guard who tossed his hat in the air, apparently as a way of acknowledging that “it’s on.”

Eyewitness Lauren Spivey told CNN that for nearly 45 minutes the vessel obstructed the docking space at Harriott II Riverboat at Riverfront Park.

“The man, the white individual, hurried down there, and that’s when things escalated,” Spivey said, adding that the guard simply informed the man that he needed to relocate to create space for the larger riverboat.

“[The white boaters] just didn’t think the rules applied to them. It was so avoidable. This never had to have happened,” Leslie Mawhorter, an eyewitness to the incident, told Yahoo! News.

“Everything just spiraled from there,” Mawhorter said. “I knew something was going to go down, because their attitude was just, ‘You can’t tell us what to do.’ They were going to be confrontational regard-

less of who you were.”

The confrontation escalated, with punches thrown and chairs wielded as weapons.

At least one individual was tossed into the water amidst the chaotic clash.

Police detained several individuals, and charges are pending.

Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed commended law enforcement for their rapid response to detain those responsible for assaulting the security guard.

“Those who choose violence will be held accountable by our criminal justice system,” he said. “While there is a lot of activity and interest in this, we know that we’ll come through this together as a community collectively as we have other situations.”

Major Saba Coleman said an ongoing investigation has led to the issuance of four active warrants.

However, the number is flexible, as authorities meticulously review additional footage, indicating the likelihood of more warrants.

“It was inexcusable behavior,” Christa Owen, who was on the Harriot, told NBC News, adding that she believes alcohol was a factor.

“I can’t imagine anyone just disregarding moving their boat 2 feet so that a dinner cruise boat could park back in that spot.”

Continue Tax Page 1

Here’s what you need to know to make your decision.

What are we voting on? Earlier this month, during the second special session of the 88th Legislature, lawmakers passed three bills to spend \$13.3 billion of a historic state surplus to rein in Texas property taxes, which are among the highest in the nation. The extra cash in the state coffers was attributed largely to record sales tax collections — which every person pays when making purchases in Texas — when inflation soared nationally after the pandemic. Added to \$5.3 billion budgeted in 2019 to lower school tax rates, a total of \$18.6 billion in tax cuts would go to property owners this year.

Senate Bill 2, at a cost of \$12.7 billion, details the proposed property tax cuts, while Senate Bill 3, which costs about \$600 million, adds cuts to the franchise taxes some businesses have to pay. Both were authored by state Sen. Paul

Bettencourt, a Houston Republican.

These measures will not appear on the ballot. House Joint Resolution 2, by state Rep. Will Metcalf, R-Conroe, is the constitutional amendment that will go before voters in November and would authorize the state to enact the cuts in those two bills.

Proponents of the package wanted a constitutional amendment so that any changes that lawmakers might want to make to certain parts of the bill in the future would have to be approved by voters first. The amendment is also needed so that the cost of all of the tax cuts this year won’t count against spending limits imposed by voters and lawmakers on the \$321.3 billion state budget for the next two years.

Article has been shortened due to space.

This article originally appeared in *The Texas Tribune* at <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/07/27/texas-property-tax-cuts-explained/>.

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Photo by Chris Jones

New variant EG.5 is on the rise as Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations go up

By Brenda Goodman, CNN

There's a new coronavirus variant topping the leaderboard in the United States: EG.5.

Nationally, EG.5 is causing about 17% of new Covid-19 cases in the country, compared with 16% for the next most common lineage, XBB.1.16, according to the latest estimates from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

EG may sound like a whole new flavor of the virus, but it's not; it's a spinoff of the XBB recombinant strain of the Omicron family. And it represents another incremental tweak to the virus rather than a major evolutionary leap like the original Omicron strain.

Compared with its parent XBB.1.9.2, it has one extra mutation to its spike, at position 465. This mutation has appeared in other coronavirus variants before. Scientists aren't sure exactly what new tricks it enables the virus to do, but variant hunters are

paying attention because many of the new XBB descendants have adopted it.

The 465 mutation is present in about 35% of coronavirus sequences reported worldwide, including another that's rising in prevalence in the Northeast, FL.1.5.1, suggesting that it is conveying some kind of evolutionary advantage over previous versions.

EG.5 also now has its own offshoot, EG.5.1, that adds a second mutation to the spike. That one is also spreading rapidly.

Dr. David Ho has been testing these variants in his lab at Columbia University to see how resistant they have become to the antibodies we have to defend against them.

"Both are only slightly more resistant to neutralizing antibodies in serum of infected and vaccinated persons," Ho, a professor of microbiology and immunology, said in an email to CNN.

The variant has

become the most prevalent in the US just as cases, emergency room visits and hospitalizations are going up, although there's nothing to suggest that this specific strain is what's driving those increases.

Instead, epidemiologists think human behavior is the engine for this uptick. They point to things like record heat driving more people indoors for air conditioning, which helps the virus spread. Summer travel is sending people outside their normal social circles, which carries viruses to new victims. School is going back into session in many parts of the country too, and as parents know, homework isn't the only thing kids bring home from their classrooms.

Topol said the vaccine is particularly important for those who are elderly and who have weakened immune systems because they no longer have effective monoclonal antibodies to help if a Covid-19 case becomes severe.

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Continued OSCAR Page 3

These people also seek to strengthen the bonds between them by acts that they claim preserve their cultural heritage, such as flying the Confederate flag to honor the valiant South. But in countries like the United States and other former colonial and post-colonial powers, ethnonationalism often leads to exclusionary and divisive tendencies, resulting in hostility toward those who belong to other ethnic or cultural groups. In multicultural nations, this xenophobia results in injustice and violence against those the ethnonationalists consider to be "the other."

Ethnonationalism marginalizes minority communities by creating a hierarchical society that excludes individuals based on ethnicity or culture. It is exacerbated when it intersects with authoritarianism and conservative political ideologies. Politicians such as Donald Trump and Marjorie Taylor Greene have put this type of cultural toxicity on full display. Through the use of their hate-filled and nonsensical rhetoric, these despicable individuals use ethnonationalism to stir up a frightful brew of grievance politics, notions of white superiority and general discontent

as a means of gaining political power.

Ethnonationalism erodes democratic institutions and suppresses the voices of the oppressed. It is poison to pluralism and democratic values. The banning of books dealing with race and non-binary individuals is a result of ethnonationalism. The attack on the ability of women to have control over their own reproductive choices is a result of ethnonationalism. The mistreatment and exclusion of migrants arriving at our southern border is a result of ethnonationalism. The decimation of the voting rights laws established during the last half century is a result of ethnonationalism.

There are among our neighbors, co-workers and even relatives individuals who are ethnonationalists. And while we must love our neighbors, co-workers and relatives, we must not allow them to poison the land where we live.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>

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