

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



## The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 70 NUMBER 12

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 21 - 27, 2017

# First Black Sheriff Appointed In Dallas County and Lupe Valdez running for Governor

## It's Official Keisha Lance Bottoms Wins Atlanta Mayoral Runoff



(AP) — Election officials have certified the results of Atlanta's mayoral election runoff, finally making the numbers official in Keisha Lance Bottoms' victory over Mary Norwood.

Richard Barron, Fulton County's elections director, said the new results were certified Saturday.

The final numbers show that Bottoms garnered 46,661 votes, or 50.44 percent; and Norwood got 45,840 votes, or 49.56 percent.

## Let's Fix This



Let's Fix This, a campaign whose primary mission is public safety by ending dog bites and attacks, is hosting free spay/neuter clinics through the end of March, with the opportunity to extend the program.

The campaign has partnered with the local chapter of SPCA and Spay/Neuter Network to target zip codes in the southern sector of Dallas to provide absolutely free spay and neuter services for their animals.

They will also have a kiosk at Southwest Center Mall (Red Bird Mall) to sign up for upcoming spay and neuter days across South Dallas.



The Dallas Post Tribune congratulates Marian Brown on being appointed interim sheriff of Dallas County. Also, we applaud Lupe Valdez for running for the Governor's office, 2018.

DALLAS - Dallas County commissioners Tuesday appointed Marian Brown to be interim sheriff of Dallas County. Brown will be sworn in on Jan. 1, 2018, and will serve in the absence of Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who resigned to run for the governor's mansion. Brown is the first black sheriff in Dallas county.

Dallas Morning News reports Brown, 52, was Valdez's third-in-command. Valdez recommended Brown to be her successor.

Brown joined the sheriff's department three years ago, following 26 years of service with the Duncanville Police Department where she rose through the ranks from a patrol officer to an assistant chief, The News reported.

"I am thankful for the opportunity just to play a small role in making Dallas County Sheriff's Department indeed the premier law enforcement agency of Dallas county," Brown told reporters in a conference Tuesday.

The city's police department is lead by Chief U. Renee Hall, the first African American female police chief in the city's history. Dallas is also home to District Attorney Faith Johnson, the first African American female DA of the County.

Interim Sheriff Brown was preceded by Valdez, the first female Hispanic sheriff in the United States and only one of four female sheriffs in Texas. Valdez is also the first openly gay sheriff in Texas.

## Roma Boots donates footwear to every Jill Stone Elementary student



DALLAS — Students at one Dallas ISD elementary school are benefitting from a donation of the proper footwear just in time to prepare them for wet, winter weather.

Samuel Bistran, owner of Roma Boots, recently donated a pair of rain boots for every student at Jill Stone Elementary School at Vickery Meadow. The special-edition "Wonder Boot" was developed in a partnership with Lionsgate, the company that produced the recently released movie, "Wonder."

Roma Boots is on a mission to donate 1 million boots by the year 2020.

## Billy Earl Dade students join "WE Day Texas"!



DALLAS — Students from Billy Earl Dade Middle School participated in a "WE Day Texas" event, hosted by the Dallas-based nonprofit, Urban Specialists, in conjunction with the WE Volunteer Now Speaking Tour that included captivating speeches and interactive workshops.

Students learned about and discussed how they can use their time and talents in pursuit of a greater good.

WE Schools, affiliated with the WE Charity network, "empowers young people to take meaningful action and become active local and global citizens" at WE Day events throughout the country.

Lincoln High School hosted a "WE Day Texas" event on Dec. 14.

## #WEDNESDAY WISDOM

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"I believe in the SWEAT of LOVE and in the FIRE of TRUTH"

- ASSATA SHAKUR @BODHICHICAGO



NASA CELEBRATES LEGACY OF FIRST BLACK AMERICAN ASTRONAUT



Diddy, Kaepernick recruiting investors for serious bid to buy Panthers, report says



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## OP-ED: Republican Tax Bill Robs the Poor to Feed the Rich

**By Marian Wright Edelman (President, The Children's Defense Fund)**

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act recently passed on a nearly straight party line Republican vote in the U.S. Senate is, like the House-passed bill, a moral abomination. Their enactment would be the death of America's dream for tens of millions of children. The House and Senate bills favor the wealthiest Americans and most powerful corporations over poor and moderate-income children and families—billionaires over poor babies and powerful corporations over poor children. They are evil.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned that "America is going to hell if we can't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life." With both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives now having passed extremely unjust tax bills, I must ask—how can 278 political leaders, 51 Senators and 227 House members, act against the best interests of so many in their states and across our nation to line the overstuffed pockets of powerful special interests with government money?

What religious texts do these Members of Congress and those who lobby them read? How did they miss the clear warnings of the prophets and gospels and tenets of every great faith to care for the poor, the sick, the lame and the orphan? Where did they learn that acting as Robin Hood in reverse by denying the poor and powerless child the basic survival needs of food and shelter to give to the wealthy and powerful is acceptable?

There are 565 billionaires in the United States—the 400

richest of whom have a combined net worth of \$2.7 trillion. More than 13.2 million children—1 in 5—live in poverty in America. Their families of four make less than \$24,563 a year. More than six million children live in deep poverty, at less than half the poverty level.

A majority of both houses of Congress and the Trump Administration seek policies to reward millionaires and billionaires and non-needy corporations and add nearly \$1.5 trillion—around \$150 billion a year for the next ten years—to our national deficit to do so. And to pay for it, they will deny poor and moderate-income children and families health-care, food, housing, child care and other survival assistance or help parents get needed jobs at livable wages to support their families.

Consider some of the facts about these tax cut bills:

Both the Senate and House bills lavishly benefit the wealthiest households and individuals. The Senate bill doubles the estate tax threshold, enabling individuals to inherit tax free up to \$11 million and couples up to \$22 million. The House bill would eliminate the estate tax entirely.

More than 60 percent of the Senate bill's individual tax cuts in 2027 go to the richest one percent of households making \$1 million or more; 48 percent of current tax-paying households would face tax increases according to the Tax Policy Center. The Senate bill ends individual tax benefits after ten years while making permanent tax cuts for corporations. The House bill continues both individual and corporate tax cuts.

The Senate's \$1,000 Child Tax Credit increase to benefit families with children and make up for elimination of the personal exemption for dependents pro-

vides little or no assistance to poor and middle-income working families. Yet, both the Senate and House bills enable higher income families to qualify for the credit for the first time. Neither Senate nor House bills make the credit fully refundable to help working families with the lowest incomes. Both bills would end eligibility of children in low-income working immigrant families for the credit without Social Security Numbers. Tax paying immigrant families are required currently to have only an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to qualify for the Child Tax Credit.

The Senate's permanent corporate tax cuts are partially paid for by repealing the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate and tax penalty. This will leave 13 million fewer people insured in ten years, raise health insurance premiums for many more and destabilize the health insurance marketplace.

The \$1.5 trillion ten-year deficit the House and Senate bills create will cause deep cuts in Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child care, education, Pell Grants, housing and other critical child services.

No funds will be left over for the next decade to end child poverty for the more than 13.2 million children struggling to grow up healthy and educated.

Imagine spending \$1.5 trillion or even one-tenth of that each year on children's needs? Two years ago CDF commissioned the Urban Institute to assess steps to end child poverty right now. We identified modest improvements to nine programs we knew helped reduce child poverty: increasing the value of SNAP's food benefits, providing housing subsidies for poor and near-poor families with children,

making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit for the lowest income families, creating a subsidized jobs program, increasing the minimum wage, expanding the federal child care subsidy program, making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable, and helping more families get child support payments. Implementing all these improvements together would lift 60 percent of all poor children and 72 percent of poor children of color from poverty for a year, at a \$77.2 billion federal and state government cost—less than half of one year of the \$1.5 trillion deficit increase. A \$1.5 trillion investment could lift these children from poverty to adulthood.

We must tell Congress to reject this morally indefensible tax boondoggle and instead invest in protecting children and maintaining any semblance of fairness.

Not one new dime in tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires as long as more than 13.2 million children are poor, and millions of children are hungry, uneducated, homeless and without health coverage. Stand up and fight. A nation that does not stand up for its children does not stand for anything and will not stand tall in the future.

Marian Wright Edelman is the president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information, go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org). Follow the Children's Defense Fund on Twitter @ChildDefender.

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We welcome letters to the editor. Submissions must be signed, addressed and must include a daytime and an evening phone number. Please limit submissions to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit and correct all submissions although; every effort will be made to retain the intended meaning of the submission. Send your submissions via email to [production@dallasposttrib.net](mailto:production@dallasposttrib.net) or by mail to P.O. Box 570769, Dallas, Texas 75357-0769.

**BE KIND!** Never speak harsh words. Be kind and gentle with your tongue. For it has been said that the tongue can be like a sword. Think long before you criticize your neighbor. Your tongue can be nasty. Living is one of the most beautiful things in the world. But the tongue can kill!

## NASA Celebrates Legacy of First Black American Astronaut on Anniversary of his Death

**By Erick Johnson (Chicago Crusader/NNPA Member)**

Fifty years ago, a tragic accident ended the groundbreaking career of Major Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., a Chicago native and stellar Air Force pilot who became America's first Black astronaut.

On December 8, 2017—the 50th anniversary of his death—NASA honored his often-ignored legacy and contributions to the agency.

Earlier this year, the Chicago Crusader reported about the lack of visibility of NASA's first Black American astronaut and helped to raise awareness about Lawrence's incredible journey.

In planning a story for its annual Black History Month edition, Chicago Crusader staffers discovered that little was being done to honor Lawrence, while NASA held memorials to mark the 50th anniversary of three, White astronauts who perished in a fire aboard the Apollo 1 space module, during a preflight test.

The Crusader story lauding Lawrence's achievements was published in dozens of Black newspapers after the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) carried it on its newswire.

Born in 1935 to the late Gwendolyn Duncan and Robert H. Lawrence, Sr., the future Air Force pilot was a man ahead of his time. Long before magnet and STEM programs were part of the high school curriculum, Lawrence excelled in math and science.

At 16, he graduated with

honors from Englewood High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Bradley University. He married the late Barbara Cress from the prominent Chicago Cress family and entered the Air Force at age 21 before earning a doctorate in physical chemistry from Ohio State University, becoming the first astronaut at NASA to earn a doctorate degree.

As a United States Air Force pilot, Lawrence accumulated over 2,500 flight hours. In June 1967, Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (Class '66B) at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. In that same month, he was selected by the USAF as an astronaut for their Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program, thus becoming the first Black astronaut.

Lawrence died while training another pilot, Maj. John Royer, to perform the "flare" maneuver—an operation that Lawrence had already mastered—in the F-104 Starfighter.

According to NBC News, "Lawrence's memory languished in obscurity" partly due to the fact that, the Pentagon only recognized someone as an "astronaut" if they actually flew to an altitude above 50 miles.

However, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Va.) mounted a campaign that forced NASA to put Lawrence's name on the Space Mirror Memorial in 1997—thirty years after Lawrence's death.

"On Dec. 8, 1997, on the thirtieth anniversary of his death, Lawrence had his name unveiled on the Florida memo-

rial," NBC News reported.

The ceremony recognizing Lawrence, earlier this month—although spirited, at times—was a somber one for the 300 guests that included decorated NASA astronauts, dignitaries, relatives, and friends, who had flown and driven miles across the country to honor Lawrence at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Lawrence's older sister, Dr. Barbara Lawrence, attended and spoke; another prominent Chicago resident who was present was E. Dawn Griffin, the oldest daughter of Ernest Griffin, founder of Griffin Funeral Home in Bronzeville. The Griffin Funeral Home, which closed in 2012, handled the funeral arrangements for Lawrence.

Members from Lawrence's college fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, also attended to honor one of their own. On the sprawling grounds of the NASA facility, they participated in a two-and-a-half-hour ceremony that began at the Center for Space Education and culminated with an emotional wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the national Space Mirror Memorial, a massive black granite structure where Lawrence's name is among those of 20 astronauts who either died in flight or in training.

The ceremony brought out some of NASA's astronauts and biggest officials. Charles Bolden, America's first Black NASA chief administrator, and Stephanie Wilson, the second Black female astronaut, attended the service. Another Black

astronaut, Winston Scott, played the trumpet in a band that performed various jazz songs, including, "Fly Me to the Moon." Reportedly, jazz was one of Lawrence's favorite musical genres.

Dr. Herman B. White Jr., a physicist and lecturer at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., Lawrence's alma mater, gave a presentation where a memorial scholarship and a conference room bear Lawrence's name. Recently, Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio renamed a dormitory in Lawrence's honor.

Bolden, who piloted the space shuttles Columbia and Discovery, praised Lawrence for his spirit. "He took that first step," Bolden said. "If he had lived, he would have been flying on that space shuttle also."

Col. Robert Cabana, who flew on four shuttle missions, agreed.

"Major Robert H. Lawrence truly was a hero," said Cabana. "He set the stage for what was to come."

Dr. Barbara Lawrence shared her experiences with her brother as they grew up on the South Side of Chicago. She said, when Robert was young, he was a very disciplined student and dedicated to learning.

"I'm truly proud to have been his sister," she shared. "He wasn't interested in being the first Black astronaut. He was only interested in being given the opportunity to do what he wanted to do. I'm sorry he wasn't here a little longer, but I think his job was one that was well done."

# Church Directory

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**Greater New Zion Baptist Church**  
2210 Pine Street, Dallas, TX 75215  
P. 214-421-4119 Email: gnz2210@sbcglobal.net



Rev. Joe S. Patterson, Pastor

### Services

**Bible Study**  
Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

## Carver Heights Baptist Church

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



Pastor, Daryl R. Carter

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



*You're Welcome to Join Us*  
**GREATER CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. David E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher  
8350 Forest Lane, Dallas, TX 75243  
P. 214-349-7701

Church School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Services - 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week Revival Services - 7:00 p.m.

Visit us @ [www.greatercornerstone.org](http://www.greatercornerstone.org)

"A Good Understanding Wins Favor" Prov. 13:15

**Greater Providence Baptist Church**  
5300 Marvin D. Love Freeway, Dallas, TX 75232  
P. 214-339-5800



Rev. J.L. Eades, Jr., Pastor

### Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.  
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.  
Adult & Youth Bible Study (Fri.) - 7:00 p.m.



Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III  
Senior Pastor

**Worship Times:**  
Sundays 8:00 a.m. &  
10:45 a.m. CST

**Bible Study:**  
Wednesdays Word & Wonders  
12:00 p.m. (G129) &  
7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) CST

**Phone:**  
(972) 228-5200

**Mission Statement**  
"Creatively making disciples,  
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making a difference  
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(Mt. 28:16-20 | Luke 4:18-19)

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## Baptist

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church  
Pastor Rickie G. Rush  
7701/7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.  
Dallas, Texas 75237  
972-572-IBOC  
[www.ibocchurch.org](http://www.ibocchurch.org)

*You're Invited*

**Sunday Services**  
7:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Monday School  
(Bible Study)**  
7 p.m.

**Men's Fellowship**  
Friday  
8 p.m.

**Women's Fellowship**  
1st Sunday  
4 p.m.

**Pilgrim Rest  
Missionary  
Baptist Church**  
1819 N. Washington Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75204  
(214) 823-7308  
[www.pilgrimrestdallas.org](http://www.pilgrimrestdallas.org)

**Worship Opportunities**  
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
5th Sunday, Combined Worship:  
10:00 am  
Word Out Wednesday Bible Study  
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm



*We Walk By Faith,  
Not By Sight!*  
Dr. Curtis W. Wallace  
Senior Pastor

## CONCORD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

6808 Pastor Bailey Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75237  
P. 214-333-3597



Rev. Bryan Carter, Sen. Pastor

Sundays: 8am, 10am, &  
12noon  
Wednesdays: 7pm  
[www.ConcordDallas.org](http://www.ConcordDallas.org)



**True Vine of Holiness  
Missionary Baptist Church**  
6728 Altaire Ave, Dallas, TX  
75241  
214-375-6504  
Dr. Wendell Blair, Sr.—  
Pastor  
Sister Gloria Blair – First  
Lady

**Our Church Motto:**  
"The Church where the  
Bible is our Guide"  
2 Timothy 3:16

**Services:**  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Church Motto:**  
"To Know Christ, To Grow In  
Christ and to Share The Gospel  
Of Jesus Christ with Others"



Dr. Ronald Jones, Senior Pastor

## New Hope Baptist Church (Founded 1873)

5002 S. Central Expressway  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
214.421.5296  
Fax 214.421.1531  
Website:  
New Hope Bapt-Dallas.org  
Email:

1newhope4all@sbcglobal.net  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Wednesday Midday Bible  
Study 12:00 Noon  
Wednesday Mid Week Bible  
Study 6:00 PM

## Saint Phillips Missionary Baptist Church

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



Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips, Jr.

**Email Address:**  
stphillipsmbc@att.net

### Schedule of Activities

#### Sunday

Early Morning Worship- 8AM  
Church School- 9AM  
Morning Worship- 10AM

**Mount Zion  
Missionary Baptist Church**  
3811 Lattimer Street  
Dallas, Texas 75219  
(214) 438-2980 Office  
[www.mountziondallas.org](http://www.mountziondallas.org)  
"Here We Grow"

**SUNDAY**  
Church School 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.  
Awana Club 8:30 P.M.  
Evening Bible  
Exposition 5:30 P.M.  
The Lord's Supper  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 5:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Music Ministry 6:15 P.M.  
Awana Club 7:00 P.M.  
Prayer/Bible  
Fellowship 7:00 P.M.

"Let's Mount Up!"  
Rev. Johnny Cabre Smith  
Pastor

## True Lee Missionary Baptist Church

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



Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.

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

Radio Station Broadcast  
Every Sunday @  
9:30 a.m. til 10:00 a.m.  
KPYK 1570 AM

## Church of Christ



Bro. Lamont Ross, Senior Minister

2431 S. Marsalis Ave.  
Dallas, Texas 75216  
Office: 214-941-2531  
Fax: 214-942-9646  
[www.marsalisavenuecoc.org](http://www.marsalisavenuecoc.org)

### Come Worship and Study with Us!

#### Sundays

Bible Study 8:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:00 AM  
Children's Bible Hour 10:00 AM  
Evening Worship 5:30 PM

#### Wednesdays

Bible Class 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

## Greenville Avenue Church of Christ

1013 S. Greenville Ave  
Richardson, Texas 75081  
P. 972-644-2335 F. 972-644-9347



Minister S.T. Gibbs, III

### Associate Ministers:

John Bradshaw  
Ben Myers  
Patrick Worthey

### Elders:

Harlee Glover  
Fred Green  
Raymond Hart  
David Phillips, Jr.  
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

### Schedule of Services

#### SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship  
8:00 a.m.  
Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY**  
Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

## Dallas West Church of Christ

3510 N. Hampton Rd.  
Dallas, Texas 75212  
P. 214-631-5448

Website: [www.dwcoc.com](http://www.dwcoc.com)



Sammie Berry  
Minister

### Calendar of Events

**Sunday Bible School**  
8:45 a.m.

#### Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday Song Practice**  
7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday Bible Class

9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Sunday Radio Broadcast

7:30 a.m. on 970 AM

"The Congregation Where  
Everybody is Somebody"

## Church of Christ at Cedar Valley

4013 N. Dallas Avenue, Lancaster, Texas 75134  
P.O. Box 510, Lancaster, Texas 75146 (Mailing)  
469-567-1822 (Phone) 469-567-1823 (Fax) [www.coccv.org](http://www.coccv.org)



Samuel Bailey, Minister

### Sunday Bible Study

8:30 a.m.

### Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 a.m.

### Sunday Evening Worship

5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday Bible Study

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## APNewsBreak: Michael Jackson sex abuse lawsuit dismissed

(AP) — A judge on Tuesday dismissed the lawsuit brought by a choreographer who alleged Michael Jackson molested him as a child, resolving one of the last major claims against the late singer's holdings.

Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff's summary judgment ruling against the now-35-year-old Wade Robson found that the two Jackson-owned corporations, which were the remaining defendants in the case, were not liable for Robson's exposure to Jackson. He did not rule on the credibility of Robson's allegations themselves.

Robson's attorney, Vince Finaldi, said he strongly disagrees and plans to appeal.

Robson, a native of Australia who has worked with Britney Spears and NSYNC, met Jackson when he was 5 years old.

He testified in Jackson's defense at the singer's 2005 criminal trial, saying he had spent the night at Jackson's Neverland Ranch more than 20 times and usually slept in Jackson's room, but Jackson never molested him. Jackson was acquitted in that trial.

Then in 2013 about four

years after the singer's death, Robson sued the Jackson estate for what his attorneys described as molestation that spanned a seven-year period.

A court ruled in 2015 that Robson had filed his lawsuit too late to get any of Jackson's estate. That left two remaining defendants, both corporate entities owned by Jackson in his lifetime: MJJ Productions, Inc., and MJJ Ventures, Inc.

The judge ruled Tuesday that those two corporate defendants could not be held responsible for Robson's exposure to Jackson, the way a school or the Boy Scouts can be found liable for bringing together an abusive adult and a child victim.

Finaldi said the reasoning sets a dangerous precedent.

"What the judge is saying is that you if own a corporation or a company, you can hire people, use these people to facilitate your sexual abuse, use them to facilitate victims," Finaldi told The Associated Press by phone. "So long as you're the sole owner of that corporation, the corporation can't be held liable."

Jackson estate attorney Howard Weitzman said in a statement that he "believes

the court made the correct decision in dismissing Wade Robson's claim against it. "In my opinion Mr. Robson's allegations, made 20 plus years after they supposedly occurred and years after Mr. Robson testified twice under oath — including in front of a jury — that Michael Jackson had never done anything wrong to him was always about the money rather than a search for the truth."

Finaldi replied that the Jackson camp's interest in the truth was "hollow."

"If someone's trying to search for the truth, why not let the lawsuit proceed?" Finaldi said. "Why not exonerate him and let a jury decide."

During the criminal trial, Robson bristled at testimony by other witnesses that they had seen Jackson molest him.

"I'm telling you nothing happened," Robson testified at the time when a prosecutor challenged him.

Another Robson attorney said when his lawsuit was filed that stress and sexual trauma led Robson to finally accept that he had been molested by Jackson.

## Actor, Activist and Father: Ossie Davis Remembered Ossie Davis Would Have Turned 100 This Year. His Children Remember his Life.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Entertainer and activist Ossie Davis would be 100 years old if he was alive today. Yet, it's impossible to celebrate his life without also honoring the storied career of his wife and life partner, Ruby Dee.

Given the heightened racial tensions in America, it's also hard to ignore that Davis and Dee always stood out as dedicated activists for freedom, justice and equality.

"We raised them well," joked Nora Davis Day, one of the couple's three children.

Nora joined her sister, Hasna Muhammad, and her brother, Guy, for an interview with the NNPA Newswire to honor their mother and father for his birthday.

"I've always thought of being their children as 'ordinary and extraordinary,'" said Day. "On Saturday, we did our chores, scrubbed the bathroom and we did our homework. They were serious about parenting, not unlike many homes."

While Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were famous actors, their children said that they never felt they had anything to brag about around the neighborhood.

"Many of our friends were in the same position," Muhammad said. "We played with Sidney Poitier's children, Harry Belafonte's children and the children of other activists and actors. We were all in the same position, so it wasn't about, 'Hey, my dad was on TV last night,' because everybody's dad was on TV last night."

A host of stars lived in and around the family's Mount Vernon, N.Y. enclave, including Poitier, writer E.B. White, producer Dick Clark, actor Art Carney and boxer Floyd Patterson.

"As an adult and a parent myself, I came to discover just how wonderful and amazing our parents were and how thoughtful they were," said Guy Davis, an

accomplished blues musician.

Guy Davis pointed toward his parents' activism and their deep friendships with folks like Paul Robeson and Malcolm X. Ossie Davis ultimately would give the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral.

Davis said his parents taught lessons even while administering discipline.

"They were like Joe Louis' boxing gloves, the left and the right," said Guy Davis. "One was the punisher and the other was the educator. They worked well together."

Guy Davis continued: "When I got into trouble, dad would make me stand there with my palms facing up and he'd look me in the eye and tell me what I did wrong and take his belt off and 'Wham!' [hit my hands with the belt]. He could hurt you without ever harming you."

Meanwhile, Ruby Dee, "could light you up and your knees would be buckling, before you were hit."

Mostly, the lessons taught by Davis and Dee were about life—particularly life as an African American. One lesson involved boycotting Christmas after the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four little Black girls; others involved planning direct actions following the assassinations of Medgar Evers and John F. Kennedy.

Davis and Dee were prominently involved in the Civil Rights Movement and together they planned marches, sit-ins and other acts of civil disobedience and protests.

The children remembered making papier-mâché cut outs and refraining from commercial activity to protests racial inequality and injustice. Later, the family would protest Coca-Cola, because of a connection the company had with the racist John Birch Society and its stand on Apartheid.

"We've been Black a long time and what you see happening today...none of this is new," Nora Davis said.

Davis was a central figure among Black performers and he

and Dee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1998 with the publication of a dual autobiography, "In This Life Together."

Both had key roles in the television series "Roots: The Next Generation" in 1978, "Martin Luther King: The Dream and the Drum" in 1986, and "The Stand" in 1994. Davis appeared in three Spike Lee films, including "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing" and "Jungle Fever." Dee also appeared in the latter two; among her best-known films was "A Raisin in the Sun," in 1961.

The couple shared billing in 11 stage productions and five movies during their long careers and received the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004.

"Of the two of them, mother was just a pure force of nature when it came to acting," Guy Davis said. "Father was more of a writer. He acted, but he enjoyed writing."

Davis died on February 4, 2005 at 87. Dee died on June 11, 2014 at 91.

Both, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, always saw the bigger picture and, if they were still alive, they would still be active in the fight for freedom, justice and equality, their children said.

"I learned from my parents that, sometimes, sacrifice is necessary," said Guy Davis. "Once they were on a train to go to work at a theater on Broadway, when they were doing the play 'Purlie Victorious.' Here they were, making a successful living but, because there were no Black conductors on the train, they decided to protest and they didn't go on stage that night."

Davis continued: "They stepped up and had to sacrifice in order to make change and today, you don't even think twice about seeing a Black conductor or bus driver."

Day said that her parents taught her to appreciate different cultures, languages and people.

"They taught us to love our people and to speak up for our people," said Day. "When needed, answer the call."

## The Dallas Post Tribune Prayer List

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# SPORTS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, December 21	Friday, December 22	Saturday, December 23	Sunday, December 24	Monday, December 25	Tuesday, December 26	Wednesday, December 27
 H-74° L-48°	 H-53° L-38°	 H-49° L-38°	 H-46° L-28°	 H-47° L-33°	 H-56° L-40°	 H-47° L-40°

### Diddy, Kaepernick recruiting investors for serious bid to buy Panthers, report says

Rapper Sean “Diddy” Combs was serious about trying to buy the Carolina Panthers and is meeting with potential investors in hopes of “shaping a prospective ownership group,” reports Yahoo! Sports, citing multiple sources.

The deal will involve controversial former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, says Charles Robinson, the NFL columnist for Yahoo! Sports.

Combs said on Sunday that he hoped to purchase an NFL team shortly after Panthers owner Jerry Richardson announced he would put his share of the franchise up for sale at the end of the season. It was widely believed Diddy wasn’t serious, particularly after Kaepernick suggested via Twitter that the two could partner on the bid.

However, Kaepernick has already begun reaching out to a handful of business leaders, venture capitalists and sports icons to discuss an ownership group, said Yahoo! Sports. The site said Combs and Kaepernick have a “shared vision” about creating an ownership group that more closely represents the racial makeup of the league’s players, which is about 70 percent African-American.

Offers to buy the team have become a running joke on social media, including one sent out Tuesday by actor Colton Haynes of “Teen Wolf” and “Arrow” fame. “I would

also like to buy the Panthers. Please spread the word before Diddy gets them!” he tweeted.

Diddy has yet to comment on the Yahoo Sports! report, but continues to send out cryptic tweets, one of which featured a black panther walking in slow motion and another that read: “A lot of times people see your dreams as crazy... Don’t ever be afraid to dream.”

A tweet he sent on Monday said: “ATTN all @NFL owners, it’s time for diversity!! It’s time for Black ownership!! The time is now. Let’s make it happen!!”

“Realistically, Combs has the money to potentially be the controlling partner in any ownership group,” reported Sportsnaut.com. this week. “For his part, Kaepernick has the connections to bring on some other big-money partners to make this work. It really isn’t an unlikely scenario, at least from those perspectives.”

Diddy said earlier this week that his purchase of the Panthers would include giving the unemployed Kaepernick a shot at being quarterback. That sparked social media outrage among fans of current Panthers quarterback Cam Newton.

The news outlet Verdict.Co.UK reports Combs has proven to be an astute businessman, using his global fan base to develop and sell a range of products. As a result, P Diddy remains the world’s

richest hip hop star with an estimated net worth of \$820 million, the news site said.

ESPN.com says Richardson’s sale of the Panthers is “good news for NFL business,” because it is an opportunity for the league to set a new benchmark for the value of its teams.

NFL franchises are rarely sold, and the interest among potential owners is likely to be high. The Panthers are worth an estimated \$2.3 billion, and a sale could plunge Charlotte into uncertainty: The new owners would not be bound to stay in the city long-term. A “tether” tying the team to Charlotte in exchange for stadium improvements funded by the city runs only through June 2019.

The Panthers have a large group of local owners who hold smaller stakes in the team, in addition to Richardson, and it’s possible that some of them could band together and buy the team. Or the Panthers might find a totally new owner, such as local auto racing tycoon Bruton Smith and his family.

Richardson announced he was putting his share of the team up for sale after a scathing Sports Illustrated report outlined allegations of sexual and racial misconduct by Richardson toward Panthers employees.

### Veggie might: Titans’ D gets boost after going vegan

(AP) — Wesley Woodyard misses putting milk in his cereal, and try as he might, the Tennessee Titans linebacker still reaches for a strip of bacon here and there.

Giving up meat hasn’t been easy, but in a league where everyone is looking for an edge, Woodyard and the Titans think they’ve found one in the produce aisle.

Woodyard and at least 10 teammates — mostly on defense — have opted to eat vegan diets this season. Football players have long had a carnivorous reputation, but Tennessee’s defenders say they feel energized by their nutrition adjustment, something that’s helped the unit rank third against the run and fifth in the league with 40 sacks.

Woodyard is in his 10th NFL season, and usually by this time of year, he’s taking daily naps to combat late-season fatigue. Not so much since going to a plant-based diet.

“My energy level’s gone up,” the Titans’ leading tackler said. “And it’s just putting in good fuel to your body. And of course, it’s always hard to keep weight on this time of the season. But it’s worth it for me staying on top of my health.”

Linebacker Derrick Morgan sparked the move away from meat. He and his wife — Cordon Bleu-trained chef Charity Morgan — had gone vegan for stretches, and when Morgan’s nutritionist advised him 10 months ago that veganism could help maximize his athleticism, he decided to give up meat and dairy entirely.

“He knew that dairy always didn’t agree with his body because he would have reactions when he ate it,” Charity Morgan said. “He never thought about meat. The human brain, we’ve been taught, ‘Oh, we need meat. It’s protein, protein, protein.’ We

both had to re-educate ourselves on what is protein.”

Having a trained chef in the house eased the transition. Charity Morgan studied plant-based meals online and began preparing dishes for her husband. By the time training camp opened, Charity Morgan was also feeding defensive lineman Jurrell Casey, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, and defensive end DaQuan Jones. Her client list grew as more teammates smelled what she had cooking.

“I broke down, tasted it, and I’ve been in ever since,” Woodyard said. “It’s good. You start off just trying to get rid of certain things. I’ve always wanted to give up red meat. Once I got the chance to get into the vegan diet, it’s kind of like you trick your mind to eat other things, and you get used to it.”

Charity Morgan is now feeding 11 Titans — and sometimes a few wives — with more on a waiting list. She’s also dished advice to other wives about handling vegan dinners at home. Favorites have included vegan crabcakes and pea protein burgers with Charity Morgan’s own take on In-n-Out’s special sauce. The chef delivers a pair of coolers packed with food each day for practice, and she even provides breakfast burritos on game days at home.

The Titans are 8-6 and the defense ranks 13th overall in the league. With results on the field holding strong, there hasn’t been any concern about the diet from coaches or team officials.

“No, guys are still performing, guys are taking care of business,” Casey said. “So until that falls off, then you don’t have nothing to worry about.”

Some players have found they can’t quite do vegan full-time. Jones gives himself a cheat meal of chicken once a week for the protein boost,

and Casey still eats fish.

Linebacker Brian Orakpo isn’t ready for a lifestyle change, but he was a fan of the lunch Charity Morgan left for him after a recent practice. A handful of Titans even gathered for a vegan Thanksgiving meal at the Morgans in November.

Vegans or vegetarianism isn’t unheard of in the NFL. Detroit running back Ameer Abdullah switched last summer to help prolong his career — a move made easier with both his parents being vegetarian.

“It actually helps you build up a faster metabolism,” Abdullah said. “A lot of the food is cleaner, so there’s not a lot of the gunk that there is in processed foods. You burn through it quicker, but I eat more. That’s been a positive for me for sure.”

Washington left tackle Trent Williams stuck to a vegan diet through training camp this year after studying the links between diet and disease. The 6-foot-5, 320-pound lineman had to stop when he dropped to around 300 pounds, somewhere he hadn’t been since his freshman year of high school. He loved how much better he slept, but he had to gain that weight back to help his center of gravity.

“The only bad thing was I couldn’t maintain my weight,” Williams said.

The biggest issue for Tennessee is taste. Casey is still on the fence there, and grateful to have Charity Morgan jazzing up his meat substitutes.

“Once you get all the sauce and the seasoning off of it, the texture of the meat or the substance that’s supposed to replace it, the flavor of that is horrible,” Casey said.

For now, though, it’s tackles over tastebuds in Tennessee.

### Miami Open site at Dolphins’ stadium offers better amenities

(AP) — While the Miami Open is giving up its picturesque island setting for suburban sprawl, the tennis tournament’s new home will include a 13,800-seat showcase court in the Miami Dolphins’ stadium and 29 permanent outer courts, with the largest seating 5,042 spectators.

IMG, which owns the event, said Wednesday the new site will include more space for players, fans and parking, along with better infrastructure and amenities. The tournament won permission Tuesday from the Miami-Dade County commission to move 18 miles north in 2019 from its longtime home of Key Biscayne.

Construction of the new tennis complex will begin soon and cost more than \$50 million, with much of the work done on grounds that had been used for football parking. Total seating capacity will

increase to 32,474 from 25,062, including 5,660 at practice courts. Lighting will allow for more night matches.

The stadium court will use both permanent and temporary seats, with the net located over the 50-yard line. Screens will hide unused football seats.

There will be double the number of parking spaces and suites at the new site. The grounds will feature a “tennis oasis” for fans with the largest video screen of any tournament.

Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who also owns the stadium, said last spring he was willing to invest in a tennis complex on stadium grounds because he wanted to keep the tournament in South Florida. The Dolphins then reached an agreement with IMG and the county.

“We are extremely excited that the Miami Open, a global entertainment event, will

remain in our community,” Ross said in a statement.

“The Miami Open belongs in Miami,” IMG co-president Mark Shapiro said.

A 2015 appeals court decision preventing upgrades to the Key Biscayne complex had left the event’s future in question. There had been speculation the tournament might leave South Florida, with potential sites ranging from South America to China.

“The Miami Open has been a part of Miami’s culture for as long as I can remember,” eight-time Key Biscayne champion Serena Williams said in a statement. “I am thrilled the Miami Open is staying in Miami where it belongs.”

Williams and her sister Venus own small stakes in the Dolphins.

The tournament starts March 19 on Key Biscayne for the 32nd and final time.

**If you have sports information that you would like placed in the DALLAS POST TRIBUNE Sports Section e-mail us at: [production@dallasposttrib.net](mailto:production@dallasposttrib.net)**

### APNewsBreak: Dodgers hit with \$36.2M tax, Yanks with \$15.7M

(AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers will pay baseball’s highest luxury tax for the fourth straight year and the New York Yankees owe a penalty for a 15th consecutive season, streaks that could end as the sport’s biggest spenders slash payroll for 2018.

The Dodgers owe \$36.2 million, according to final figures compiled by the commissioner’s office and obtained by The Associated Press. That raises their five-year tax total to nearly \$150 million. New York was second at \$15.7 million, its lowest amount since 2011 but a figure that increased its total since the tax began to \$341 million. San Francisco was next at \$4.1 million, followed by Detroit at almost \$3.7 million and Washington — which is pay-

ing tax for the first time — at just under \$1.45 million.

The Dodgers and Yankees vow to get below next year’s tax threshold of \$197 million. That would reset their base tax rate from 50 percent to 20 percent going into the 2018-19 offseason, when Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and possibly Clayton Kershaw head a potentially illustrious free-agent class.

“We know going in that the structure we have in place allows for flexibility for teams to make decisions in the near term and for the longer term,” players’ association head Tony Clark said Tuesday. “It is something obviously we watch, something that we’re very cognizant of.”

Los Angeles’ 2018 payroll for tax purposes currently projects to about \$181 million and New

York’s to \$177 million.

“My goal is still to be under the threshold,” Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said last week after the team acquired high-priced slugger Giancarlo Stanton from Miami in a trade. “Even with him added. We’re comfortably under the threshold with some more money to spend, whenever we deem we want to spend it.”

Additional surtaxes began this season: 12 percent on amounts \$20 million to \$40 million above the threshold and 45 percent on amounts over \$40 million for repeat offenders. But there were special transition rules between the old and new labor contracts.

Starting next year, teams more than \$40 million above the threshold would have their top amateur draft pick dropped back

10 slots — with the top six overall selections protected and the extra penalty applied to the second-highest pick of those teams.

Los Angeles lowered its regular payroll to \$243.7 million from a record \$291.1 million in 2015 and \$254.9 million last year. For purposes of the tax, which uses average annual values and includes benefits, the Dodgers’ payroll was nearly \$253.6 million, an increase of \$2 million.

The Yankees’ regular payroll was second at \$208.4 million, down from \$224.5 million last year and their lowest since 2006. Detroit was third at \$190.8 million after falling \$8.5 million and Boston fourth at \$189.2 million after falling \$11.3 million. San Francisco was fifth at \$186.6 million, followed by the Chicago Cubs at \$186.2 million.

World Series champion Houston was 18th at \$134.1 million, an increase of \$30 million.

Other teams with big boosts included Washington (up \$23 million to \$179 million), Texas (up \$20 million to \$174.7 million), Colorado (up nearly \$33 million to \$142.7 million) and Cleveland (up nearly \$36 million to \$136.1 million).

The Chicago White Sox dropped by almost \$37 million to \$87.8 million and San Diego by nearly \$26 million to \$71.3 million.

Milwaukee, at \$68.2 million, was last for the second straight season. Just above were the Padres and Oakland at \$76.3 million.

“We’re watching. We’ll continue to watch,” Clark said. “We have some concerns in some

areas, which I won’t go into.”

Spending on 40-man major league payrolls totaled \$4.24 billion, an increase of \$164 million, down from a \$186 million increase last year. Regular payrolls include 2017 salaries, earned bonuses and prorated shares of signing bonuses.

Luxury tax checks to the commissioner’s office are due by Jan. 21. The first \$13 million of tax money is used to fund player benefits and starting this year 50 percent of the remainder will be used to fund player Individual Retirement Accounts. The other 50 percent of the remainder will be given to teams not over the tax threshold.



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## Film Review: Star Wars: The Last Jedi (Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars)



**By Dwight Brown (NNPA Newswire Film Critic)**

Wow! This is the event movie of the year. So much action; so much haunting drama and raw emotion. And it doesn't just build to one climax; it crescendos from one climax, to the next and the next, ratcheting up the tension every time. Action/adventure fans will be dancing in the aisles.

There is something biblical about "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." There's the Old Testament: Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew); the New Testament: Rey (Daisy Ridley), Finn (John Boyega) and Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac); Devils: Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis), General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver); there's temptation; a hunt for the "Promised Land"; and a desperate escape from the wicked.

On a desolate, mountainous isle, the young warrior Rey begs the aged Luke Skywalker for guid-

ance and help for the Resistance's fighters. "We need you. We need the Jedi order back. We need Luke Skywalker," pleads Rey. She delivers that message from Princess Leia, but the old Jedi is not moved. Meanwhile in outer space, the Resistance is under attack by the First Order and trying to evade them. Finn and Poe go rogue to save the day. Snoke, Hux and Ren are out to crush the rebels.

The very heady, ethereal script by writer/director Rian Johnson ("Looper") unearths many questions and is stingy with the answers. Your curiosity will drive you crazy. Only when you are stumped and at wit's end will you find closure. Just know that the wait is worth it.

The editing by Bob Ducsay ("Looper") and Johnson's inventive direction, measure the drama, action and rescue attempts out in a rhythm that is almost spiritual, like the rhythm of life. Help comes when it is preordained. Characters enter, they embark on divergent paths and head out on enthralling mis-

sions. Scenes flow smoothly and have a similar feel, unlike 2015's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," when energizing action sequences butted up against too many stagnant moments.

There are some slower passages, but they are never boring. Use these opportunities to gather your thoughts, digest what you've seen and take a deep breath. You will need the rest. Your attention will be overpowered by a force that doesn't let you decompress, substantially, for 2 hours and 32 minutes.

There are moments when you might think, "This is so overwrought. So melodramatic." Then a glib line is rendered or a wacky scene (wide-eyed urchins screeching) breaks the spell. You laugh for a moment or smirk. Then you jump back into the conflict again, just as a laser slices a villain in half, as a courageous fighter goes down in flames or as two individuals have an intimate telepathic conversation even though they are eons away from each other.

The script, direction and



acting are excellent. The imagery is even better. Some visions will be engraved on your pupils forever. Scenes in Snoke's throne room with blood red walls, warriors in similarly colored uniforms and his gold brocade robe (designed by Michael Kaplan, "Blade Runner") are indelible. Ricketty old fighter planes sand surfing over white salty terrain, leaving a trail of poinsettia red gashes and the sight of galloping alien horse-like creatures will also stay with you. The work by art directors Andrew Bennett and Neal Callow, production designer Rick Heinrichs and cinematographer

Steve Yedlin is exquisite. These are the kind of visuals you see in a Yimou Zhang art film (like his "Hero" or "Raise the Red Lantern"), not in an action/adventure movie. Ridley, Bodega, Isaac and Driver provide an unbridled energy. Yet, it's the heavyweights, the late Carrie Fisher and gray-haired Mark Hamill, who lend a gravitas that stabilizes this fantasy in an altered reality that's become the heart of the Star Wars saga. There is a mystical presence that is almost cleansing. That essence has endeared this venerable space opera to audiences for 40 years. For the Star Wars

novice, this chapter will be a great introduction. It's easy enough to distinguish the protagonists from the antagonists and the storylines are easy to track, too. For Star Wars aficionados, this entry is one of the most galvanizing, from beginning to end. What an Odyssey. What a crowd pleaser. Wow!

Dwight Brown is a film critic and travel writer. As a film critic, he regularly attends international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the American Black Film Festival. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown here and at DwightBrownInk.com.