

May you have a SAFE, and Merry Christmas!



The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 23 - 29, 2021



SOC WINS THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!



By The HUB/Photo Ian Halperin/Dallas ISD Athletics

DALLAS - The South Oak Cliff Golden Bears brought home the championship trophy to a huge celebration in the streets Tuesday morning.

The Golden Bears beat Liberty Hill Saturday in the Class 5A Division II title game at AT&T Stadium.

It's the first time a Dallas ISD school has won a state championship in football since the late 1950s.

A victory parade to honor the team's

accomplishment featured the players, the school's band, dance teams, sports cars and police and fire units.

The spirited procession started near Ledbetter Drive and Marsalis Avenue and ended with a rally at the high school's football field and at SOC Renaissance Park.

Longtime community members were out in full force to show their support.

"It's important for the community to

be able to celebrate because it's going to bring a lot of positive energy to the community," said Ferelle Woodhouse, a team supporter. "And I think to the kids that are out here seeing South Oak Cliff get to the state championship, that's definitely going to inspire and encourage a lot of kids to come on back to the DISD."

"Most often, everybody says it means everything or means the world. But to me, it means pride and unity and hope,"

said Silvia Salinas, Dallas ISD's athletic director. "We have a lot of folks and a lot of kids looking up to these players and these coaches. I think it clears up the doubt that a lot of folks had about Dallas ISD in athletics particularly, that, just believing that we could do it, and we did it and proved them wrong."

90-year-old Doris Walker has lived in

Continued SOC Page 5

In Texas Supreme Court case, state argues that Dallas-Houston bullet train developer can't use eminent domain

By Alexa Ura, The Texas Tribune

A rural Texas landowner is battling Texas Central in a lawsuit that hinges on whether the company can forcibly take parcels needed to connect the state's two biggest urban areas.

Continue **Train** Page 5

Secret Service: Nearly \$100B stolen in pandemic relief funds

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT

Nearly \$100 billion at minimum has been stolen from COVID-19 relief programs set up to help businesses and people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic, the U.S. Secret Service said Tuesday.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Untangling Mishmash!

“My Day”

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. J. Ester Davis

What happened to the black hair industry in America? More importantly why did we abandon the once profitable black hair care brands? Why did they go out of business? How did these black-owned companies disappear so quickly? Where did they go? Is the return to natural hair enough to make a difference? What would Madame C. J. Walker say now about black hair today? What is our black hair creative job equivalent worth today?

Warning: This is not a feel good, holiday trending article. However, it is a look at gratefulness, growth, prospectus for all women regardless of conti-

nent. For about two months, I have been consumed with ‘missing-black-girls’ in our country. The pain of realizing that we had over 100,000 black girls missing in one year was overwhelming to me, so we started ‘an awareness campaign’. I am not sure I am going to have time to connect this ‘round of understanding’, but here we go. I read a very disturbing article last week published by BBC which asked the question ‘what’s behind the suicides by thousands of Indian housewives?’. Their numbers released by the government’s National Crime Records was 22,372. That’s an average of 61 suicides every day or one every 25 minutes. “Why do thousands of India housewives kill themselves every year?” And these are young women, with young babies, by the way, mistreated by their husbands and subjected to aged cultures in their country. Housewives accounted for about 15% of the total 153,052 recorded suicides in India in 2020 and more than 50% of the total number of women who killed themselves. So, what do you say is the rela-

tionship between India women and American women? So glad you asked. The dynamics are appallingly related, profoundly disturbing. They are young women! Number two one group sells their hair to survive. We, African American women buy the hair to the tune of 86% (spent by black consumers).....they sell to survive. And for what reason!! American women, the most admired on the planet, buy hair, origins unknown, from other women shrouded in secrecy and poverty from beginning-to-end. The relationship here is a look at two country’s disrespect of the gender that gives birth.

The black hair industry in America is propelled by black women shoppers who spend about \$475 million on hair care according to Nelson. In 2005, when Black Enterprise Magazine held one- of -three conferences in Dallas, the black hair care industry was appraised at \$500 million by Earl Graves, Founder, with interdependent black jobs appropriately aligned to spending, GNP and population. Simply put black women had money of their

own, a trade they controlled by turning their dollars over to each other; thus, stimulating the economy nationally without the third middleman. Today, the gathering of human hair is a secret, a whole backstage business where little is known about the trade or the global traders. What is certain is a lack of regulations, a lot of mislabeling, painstaking intensive work 1.5kg (3.3lb of hair) can take 80 hours of untangling for about \$.80. One writer writes, ‘vast majority of hair entering the global market is black at the time of entry.’ That statement is another topic for another time. In the center of the “mishmash of hair” are abused, neglected women who are broken-with-children, not happy or whole. And to not forget, in countries where the wages are super low.

Where do we go from here? Is there a balance? This subject is so vague and totally avoided like round five of the global pandemic. Can we at least make the “New Year” brighter with a conversation?

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

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Are You Raising One of the Next Generation of Hoodlums

By Dr. Joyce Willard Teal

“REINFORCING GOOD CHOICES”

During this period when school is out during the winter holidays, take advantage of the increased opportunity you have as your son’s parent to talk with him about **choices and consequences**. Although this should be an ongoing dialogue so that your son knows what your expectations are in this regard, this vacation period provides a good time to discuss choices and the consequences of making poor choices and the rewards of making good choices. It is important for your son to understand just how important this is. Of equal significance is assuring that your son is aware

of how **you** feel about the importance of him making good choices. Parents frequently wait until their sons have made poor choices and are faced with the consequences before having serious discussions with them concerning the importance of good choices. But I want to encourage parents to be proactive. Strike up a casual conversation with your son. Find out what he thinks about good choices. Ascertain some examples from him of a good choice in a specific situation. For example, you might present him with the following

hypothetical situation: your son, Michael, a nice kid in his first year of high school, was planning to ride to a school dance (held in the school’s gym) with his friend, Darren, who is a sophomore. When Darren came to pick him up, Michael noticed that he wasn’t driving his beat-up Mustang, but he just thought maybe Darren’s parents had allowed him to drive one of their other cars. However, when Michael walked out to the car, he discovered that it wasn’t Darren at the wheel, but someone he didn’t know. Ask your son what he



Dr. Joyce Teal

would do when he discovered that it wasn’t Darren at the wheel, but someone he didn’t know. Stay silent and listen carefully to his response. If he has made a poor choice in this hypothetical situation, make it clear to him that a good choice would have been for Michael to decline the ride, go back into his house and ask his parents to drop him

Continue Next Page 4

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Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

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

"THE BOLD WITNESS OF PETER AND JOHN"

ACTS 4:1-12

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



The amazing miracle of the healing of the crippled man (Acts 3:1-10), provided Peter and John the occasion to witness boldly before a powerful Sanhedrin council. The powerful apostles used the occasion of the healing of the cripple man to present the gospel message concerning the crucified, yet risen Christ (Acts 3:13-15). It is of great interest to note that it was the Pharisees who challenged Christ in the gospels.

However, it is the Sadducees who are the main opposers to the Christians in the book of Acts. The Sadducees were vexed with Peter and John because "they taught the people and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (Acts 4:2). The Sadducees were staunch in their disbelief in the doctrine of the resurrection and the existence of angels (Matthew 22:23;

Acts 23:8). Although the Sadducees didn't welcome the resurrection message, that same message became the paramount theme of the early church's preaching (Acts 2:24-36; 3:15, 26; 4:10). The bold witnessing of Peter and John resulted in their arrest during that evening (4:3). The apostles were definitely confronted with opposition from the Sadducees; however, the message they presented had a definite

effect upon many that heard the word (4:4). Persecution and evangelism were definite companions in the book of Acts! During the next morning, the Sanhedrin (composed of seventy religious leaders, plus the presiding high-priest) convened to interrogate the apostles regarding their actions (4:5-6). The Sanhedrin brought the apostles in their midst and asked the question, "By what power,

or by what name have ye done this?" (4:7). These religious aristocrats could not deny the reality of the miracle of the crippled man, but they were concerned with whose power and authority was responsible for the crippled man's healing! Peter, a coward before the cross, now speaks boldly and explains to the Sanhedrin that the good deed accomplished in the lame man's healing was through the name of Jesus of Nazareth (4:8-10). Peter speaks boldly before these national leaders, informing them that the "One whom they had crucified was the One whom God raised from the dead" (4:10). Quoting from Psalm

118:22, Peter informs them that they had rejected Jesus Christ, who God had made the cornerstone of salvation (4:11). There is really no other way to salvation except through Jesus Christ (4:12). You would have thought that such a compelling message by Peter would have brought a firm conviction to the hearts of these religious aristocrats. However, the narrative goes on to tell us that they threatened the apostles with punishment if they continued to stress the name of Christ (4:13-22). As believers, we are obligated to tell our message of the resurrected Christ even if it means facing opposition. **May God Bless!**




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Stop the Flu Before it Stops You: Get your flu shot

Protecting the health of yourself and your family is more important now than ever before. Getting sick can increase stress, medical expenses or time off from work or school. Flu season begins in the fall every year and lasts through winter. The best way to prevent the flu is by receiving an annual flu shot, the sooner the better. Stop the flu before it stops you.

Why you need a flu shot


- Every year the flu shot prevents illnesses, hospitalizations and death.
- The flu shot helps prevent patients with chronic illnesses from getting the flu. Chronic illnesses like diabetes or heart disease can increase risk of flu complications.
- The flu shot helps protect pregnant women and their baby from flu illness and hospitalization.
- Your protection from a flu shot lessens over time. To keep yourself and your family protected from the flu, make sure you all receive a flu shot every year. Children can begin receiving flu shots as early as six months old.

The best ways to protect yourself from the flu

1. Get the flu shot. Getting vaccinated every year is the best way to prevent the flu.
2. Clean your hands. Wash your hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with alcohol.
3. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth. You can get sick if you get germs on your hands and you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
4. Stay home when you are sick. Keep your kids at home when they are sick. This will help protect others from getting sick too.
5. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze.
6. Follow other healthy habits. Get enough sleep, stay active and eat healthy food.

To get your annual flu shot at no cost to you, visit one of Parkland's community-based health centers for Walk-in Wednesdays, no appointment needed. For more information on flu and upcoming flu drives, visit www.parklandhospital.com/flu.

Merry Christmas



Pfizer pill becomes 1st US-authorized home COVID treatment

By MATTHEW PERRONE

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators on Wednesday authorized the first pill against COVID-19, a Pfizer drug that Americans will be able to take at home to head off the worst effects of the virus.

The long-awaited milestone comes as U.S. cases, hospitalizations and deaths are all rising and health officials warn of a tsunami of new infections from the omicron variant that could overwhelm hospitals.

The drug, Paxlovid, is a faster way to treat early COVID-19 infections, though initial supplies will be extremely limited. All of the previously authorized drugs

against the disease require an IV or an injection.

An antiviral pill from Merck also is expected to soon win authorization. But Pfizer's drug is all but certain to be the preferred option because of its mild side effects and superior effectiveness, including a nearly 90% reduction in hospitalizations and deaths among patients most likely to get severe disease.

"The efficacy is high, the side effects are low and it's oral. It checks all the boxes," said Dr. Gregory Poland of the Mayo Clinic. "You're looking at a 90% decreased risk of hospitalization and death in a high-risk group — that's stun-

ning."

The Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer's drug for adults and children ages 12 and older with a positive COVID-19 test and early symptoms who face the highest risks of hospitalization. That includes older people and those with conditions like obesity and heart disease, though the drug is not recommended for patients with severe kidney or liver problems. Children eligible for the drug must weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kilograms).

The pills from both Pfizer and Merck are expected to be effective against omicron

because they don't target the spike protein where most of the variant's worrisome mutations reside.

Pfizer currently has 180,000 treatment courses available worldwide, with roughly 60,000 to 70,000 allocated to the U.S. The company said it expects to have 250,000 available in the U.S. by the end of January.

Federal health officials are expected to ration early shipments to the hardest hit parts of the country. Pfizer said the small supply is due to the manufacturing time — currently about nine months. The company says it can halve production time next year.

Continued **Stolen** Page 1

The estimate is based on Secret Service cases and data from the Labor Department and the Small Business Administration, said Roy Dotson, the agency's national pandemic fraud recovery coordinator, in an interview. The Secret Service didn't include COVID-19 fraud cases prosecuted by the Justice Department.

While roughly 3% of the \$3.4 trillion dispersed, the amount stolen from pandemic benefits programs shows "the sheer size of the pot is enticing to the criminals," Dotson said.

Most of that figure comes from unemployment

fraud. The Labor Department reported about \$87 billion in unemployment benefits could have been paid improperly, with a significant portion attributable to fraud.

The Secret Service said it has seized more than \$1.2 billion while investigating unemployment insurance and loan fraud and has returned more than \$2.3 billion of fraudulently obtained funds by working with financial partners and states to reverse transactions. The Secret Service says it has more than 900 active criminal investigations into pandemic fraud, with cases in every state, and 100 people have been arrested so far.

The Justice Department said last week that its fraud section had prosecuted over 150 defendants in more than 95 criminal cases and had seized over \$75 million in cash proceeds derived from fraudulently obtained Paycheck Protection Program funds, as well as numerous real estate properties and luxury items purchased with the proceeds.

One of the best-known programs created through the March 2020 CARES Act, PPP offered low-interest, forgivable loans to small businesses struggling to meet payroll and other expenses during pandemic-related shutdowns.

Law enforcement early in the pandemic focused on

fraud related to personal protective equipment, the Secret Service said. Authorities have now prioritized the exploitation of pandemic-related relief because the federal funding through the CARES Act attracted the attention of individuals and organized criminal networks worldwide.

"Can we stop fraud? Will we? No, but I think we can definitely prosecute those that need to be prosecuted and we can do our best to recover as much fraudulent pandemic funds that we can," said Dotson, who is the Secret Service's assistant special agent in charge of the agency's field office in Jacksonville, Florida.

Continued **Next** Page 2

off.

Make sure that your son knows that it is a poor choice to ride in a car with a stranger at the wheel. When an unknown person is driving, you have no way of ascertaining, until possibly too late, whether or not the person is a good or a poor driver, is under the influence of some unknown substance, is bull-headed; a reckless driver, etc.

Having frequent conversations with your son about good choices and poor choices provide him food for thought before he plunges, headlong, into sit-

uations that can be detrimental to him presently, and to his future.

REMEMBER: Your son is responsible for his choices; there is no escaping that this is so, and you are responsible for guiding him so that he becomes aware of the importance of making good choices and of the fact that you have the expectation that he will think before he makes his choices. The choice to be proactive is in your hands!

WHAT WILL BE YOUR CHOICE?

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

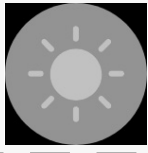
Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 23



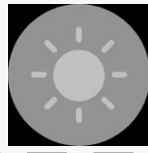
H - 70°
L - 62°

Friday, Dec. 24



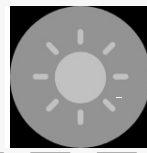
H - 78°
L - 65°

Saturday, Dec. 25



H - 82°
L - 63°

Sunday, Dec. 26



H - 80°
L - 63°

Monday, Dec. 27



H - 77°
L - 62°

Tuesday, Dec. 28



H - 73°
L - 53°

Wednesday, Dec. 29



H - 67°
L - 51°

SOC wins the state championship!

~ Continued Page 1~

By Lynnanne Nguyen and FOX 4 staff



Photo Credit/The HUD

the community for 55 years and wanted to join in on the fun.

"I walked down here because I wanted to support them, let them know how proud I am of them," she said.

Coach Cheston Jones brought three of his young players out to take in the celebration.

"It all starts here," he said. "Once you show them the opportunity of seeing something bigger as far as high school football, coming from middle school and little league football, you know the dedication and determination these guys have."

Salinas said her fellow athletic

directors in Austin and Houston have been congratulating the team.

"The urban ISDs rally together, and they just said, 'This is everything to us.' It means they can do it too," she said. "And it brings a lot of hope and pride to our communities and to our kids and coaches."

They all agree that it's more than just about football.

"It's about showing young kids there's a way of life besides the streets," said Kayo Cast, who graduated from South Oak Cliff High School in 1974. "It's about showing Oak Cliff they can do better than what they have done in the past."

"You need to be proud of everywhere you're from, especially if you're from South Oak Cliff," said DISD Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa.

"You give us the opportunity and the resources. We'll show you that Black and Brown kids can achieve," said Dallas ISD Trustee Maxie Johnson.

Even while soaking in the celebration, many already setting their sights on next year.

"We're going to be back because we're going to put in the work to be back," said Head Coach Jason Todd. "We're not satisfied."

Prairie View A&M and Tarleton State earn 'high research activity' rating

BRYAN/ COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Prairie View A&M University and Tarleton State University have attained the prestigious R2 Carnegie Classification, recognizing both campuses for their high level of research activity.

Prairie View A&M University's research expenditures topped \$105 million over the past five years, placing them in the Top 10 for historically black colleges and universities across the nation. Prairie View A&M — the top producer of black engineers in Texas — has more than 20 corporate research partnerships and produced more than 50 start-up companies from its research.

Tarleton State University has spent almost \$60 million in faculty-led research over the past five years. Tarleton's growing research portfolio includes data ana-

lytics for the federal crop insurance program that saved the U.S. Department of Agriculture more than \$1.4 billion. Tarleton's Center for Agribusiness Excellence alone has generated more than \$80 million in research funds since it was founded.

Prairie View A&M and Tarleton join Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as Texas A&M System campuses that have achieved this hard-earned designation. Texas A&M University, the System flagship, is ranked as R1 for "very high research activity."

The Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for the past four and a half

Continue A&M Page 6



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In Texas Supreme Court case, state argues that Dallas-Houston bullet train developer can't use eminent domain

Continued Page 1

The Texas attorney general's office has put its weight behind a landowner's case against the companies developing a controversial Dallas-Houston bullet train, arguing they can't force people to sell parcels needed for the high-speed rail project.

Weighing in on the matter at the invitation of the Texas Supreme Court, the attorney general's office offered the latest twist in the nearly decade-long fight over a 240-mile line that would connect Dallas and Houston. While the project has picked up support from leaders of urban areas, it's encountered hard resistance from residents of

the rural counties on its proposed path.

One of those residents, Leon County landowner James Miles, sued Texas Central after the private company sought permission to survey his 600-acre property in 2015 as part of its efforts to examine the land for the project. Miles asked the courts to declare that the company did not have the right to enter his property because it does not have the eminent domain authority granted to railroad companies.

He won at a trial court, but the legal dispute reached the Texas Supreme Court after a state appellate court in Corpus Christi

sided with Texas Central and a related company.

In a legal brief filed with the Texas Supreme Court on Friday, deputies for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton argued the high court should reverse that appellate decision and rule in Miles' favor because the companies fall short of the Texas Constitution's definition of a rail company.

"The [companies] may only make preliminary examinations and surveys of private landowners' properties for the purpose of constructing and operating a bullet train if they are either railroad companies or interurban electric railway companies," the state

wrote in its brief. "In the State's view, the [companies] are neither."

That leaves them with "no authority to enter, examine, survey or condemn Miles' land," the state wrote.

The state's legal brief turns largely on the meaning of a portion of the state Transportation Code that gives private entities the ability to exercise eminent domain if they are "operating a railroad." Reading at times as a semantic study in how to interpret tenses and grammar in state statute, the state said the companies could not be classified in that way because they "currently own no trains and

have constructed no tracks or train depots."

"The rules of grammar confirm that the Respondents are not railroad companies," the AG's office argued.

In the litigation, the companies have contended they meet that definition under the Transportation Code because they have performed the preliminary activities needed to construct a railroad, creating a reasonable probability that they would operate a railroad in the future.

The state also disagreed with the companies on this point, saying they could not show a likelihood of procuring sufficient financ-

ing to complete the project.

Texas Central representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The company has previously promised to fund the project — at a cost around \$20 billion — with the support of private investors and without public funds.

Company executives have previously said they would prefer not to use eminent domain "at all" and would rather work out amicable sales agreements for the thousands of parcels needed to construct the project across 10 counties. The company has also

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During This Season

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the streets,
The homeless were scattered with little food to eat,
Said one church member kindly, "I have a plan,
Let's gather some food to feed the homeless woman and man."

"Oh no!" said another, "I don't think that's our place.
They have the same chance, for we're equal in this race."
Then some of the others began to murmur out loud,
And soon murmurings could be heard throughout the crowd.

"Whose place is it to feed them, these poor, hungry souls?
Just who is responsible for bringing them in from the cold?"
Though everyone had an opinion, not anybody spoke.
One child finally asked, "Is this some kind of joke?"

No one had noticed as the child slipped into the room,
And all eyes turned toward her, perhaps a bit too soon.
They all felt ashamed for the child to have overheard
That they really did not honor nor adhere to God's word!

From many of them, the child had heard say,
"God's children should willingly help others each day.
And during this season of joy to the world,
No one should be cold or hungry: man, woman, boy nor girl!"

"During this season," said the child, "let's spread peace on earth,
And let each of us reflect upon baby Jesus' birth.
Let's love; let's share; let's help feed the poor,
For these are things that will please Jesus, I'm sure!"

So while sleigh bells ring and we hang mistletoe,
And boys and girls during this season dash through the snow,
Let's remember those who have no homes; will trim no Christmas trees,
For the Holy Bible teaches, God also loves such as these!

Dr. Joyce Willard Teal

Manchin not backing Dems' \$2T bill, potentially dooming it

By ALAN FRAM and HOPE YEN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said Sunday he cannot back his party's signature \$2 trillion social and environment bill, dealing a potentially fatal blow to President Joe Biden's leading domestic initiative heading into an election year when Democrats' narrow hold on Congress was already in peril.

Manchin told "Fox News Sunday" that after five-and-a-half months of negotiations among Democrats in which he was his party's chief obstacle to passage, "I cannot vote to continue with this piece of legislation. I just can't. I've tried everything humanly possible. I can't get there."

Manchin's choice of words seemed to crack the door open to continued talks with Biden and top congressional Democrats over reshaping the legislation. But the West Virginia senator all but said the bill would die unless it met his demands for a smaller, less

sweeping package — something that would be hard for many Democrats in the narrowly divided Congress to accept.

The bill would provide hundreds of billions of dollars to help millions of families with children by extending a more generous child tax credit, creating free preschool and bolstering child care aid. There is more than \$500 billion for tax breaks and spending aimed at curbing carbon emissions, which experts consider the largest federal expenditure ever to combat climate change.

Other provisions would limit prescription drug price increases, create hearing benefits for Medicare recipients and bolster aid for the elderly, housing and job training. Nearly all of it would be paid for with higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.

In an unusually hardball response to a lawmaker whose vote is crucial in the 50-50 Senate, White House press secretary Jen Psaki

called Manchin's announcement "a sudden and inexplicable reversal in his position" and "a breach of his commitments" to Biden and congressional Democrats. She pointedly said that Manchin, whose state is among the nation's poorest, "will have to explain" why many families will have to cope with higher health and child care costs the bill is intended to address.

Psaki said in a statement that Manchin had "in person" given Biden a written proposal last Tuesday that was "the same size and scope" of a framework for the bill that Democrats rallied behind in October, and agreed he'd continue talks. That framework had a 10-year cost of \$1.85 trillion. Officials hadn't previously disclosed that Tuesday meeting.

"We will continue to press him to see if he will reverse his position yet again, to honor his prior commitments and be true to his word," Psaki said.

Denzel Washington on directing: 'I'm still learning'

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Preparing to direct "A Journal for Jordan," a bittersweet love story opening on Christmas Day, Denzel Washington says he took a "master class."

That master class consisted of starring in a movie directed by Joel Coen, "The Tragedy of Macbeth," which opens the same day. "I steal from the best," Washington says with a smile.

Denzel Washington the actor has some 60 films under his belt, plus two Oscars, and at 66 is universally regarded as one of the all-time greats. Denzel Washington the director has just completed his fourth feature. "I don't call myself a director," he said matter-of-factly in an interview last week. "I'm still learning."

Before "A Journal for

Jordan," based on the book by former New York Times editor Dana Canedy about her fiancé, who fought and died in Iraq, and the journal of life lessons he left their baby son, Washington's most recent directorial effort was "Fences." The 2016 film version of the August Wilson play starred Washington himself and Viola Davis, who won an Oscar.

Washington directed himself in his other two feature outings as well — "The Great Debaters" in 2007 and "Antwone Fisher" in 2002. But he says he'd rather stay offscreen when he's at the helm.

"I prefer not being in the films," he said. "Early on, it had to do with me being able to raise the money to get the films made. Then

'Fences,' obviously we had great success onstage, so that translated to film. But I enjoy being a more behind-the-scenes kind of guy."

Aside from his recent collaboration with Coen, whom he calls "one of the greatest directors," Washington says he sought insight from some other directors he admires.

"I spent a great day with Paul Thomas Anderson a month or so ago, to listen to how he works," he said. "And Steve McQueen, I've been talking with a little bit. I'm learning how to do it, so I'm interested in learning from the best. So, I've been talking to the best."

Michael B. Jordan says he, too, is interested in learning from the best — which is why it was so impactful for him to be directed by Washington.

The actor gives a charismatic performance as Canedy's fiancé, 1st Sgt. Charles Monroe King, who was killed in Iraq in 2006 at age 48. (Canedy is portrayed by Chanté Adams.)

"To be able to work so closely with him was really important," Jordan said in an interview. "It was a master class, honestly."

"As an actor, you know, growing up, watching all his movies, watching his performances and being curious about his process — like, 'Man, I wonder how the greatest of all time rehearses' or how he breaks down his character," Jordan mused. "His perspective of character is so layered. You really realize, 'Oh, THIS is why you're Denzel, got it! I've been doing great, but then this is the next level.'"



Actor Michael B. Jordan, left, and director Denzel Washington, right, attend the world premiere of "A Journal for Jordan" at AMC Lincoln Square on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, in New York. (Photo by Andy Kropp/Invision/AP)

Continued **Bullet** Page 5

vowed to minimize how much the line will impact the land around it.

The high-speed rail project has been mired by setbacks and controversy for the better part of a decade. In both courthouses and at the Capitol, opponents have zeroed in on Texas Central's claim that state law gives it the right to use eminent domain and force unwilling owners to sell their

land.

The push for the Dallas-Houston bullet train has been built on its promise of establishing a line on which trains could run at speeds of up to 205 mph to cut a trip that would normally take four hours by car down to 90 minutes.

But securing the land along its proposed route has proven a challenge. In 2020, Texas Central said it had secured more than 600 parcels covering just about 40% of the lots — not the

land — it needs for the project. Given fierce opposition to the project in rural areas, eminent domain is seen as likely to become a necessity at some point.

In Leon County, one proposal would bisect Miles' 600 acres with a 100-foot right-of-way, according to the legal filings.

On Monday, opponents of the rail described the attorney general's brief as a "strong show of support for Texas private property

rights."

"The brief filed by the [attorney general's office] is clear that the past activities, corporate structure and financial state of the project coupled with the very high level of uncertainty that the project would ever even be built does not meet a threshold that would support Texas Central's claim that it has eminent domain authority," the group Texans Against High-Speed Rail said in a press release.

Continued **A&M** Page 5

decades. The Carnegie Classification is derived from empirical data on colleges and universities.

"This prestigious designation shows investing in faculty and facilities really pays off," said John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M System.

Sharp said the recognition for all four universities is a return on investments made by the Texas Legislature and the Texas A&M System's Board of Regents. The success reflects a focus on growing research budgets at all eleven universities in the Texas A&M System.

Texas A&M University, the System's

flagship, became the first Texas university to reach more than \$1 billion in research expenditures last year. That milestone was achieved after Chancellor Sharp directed the investment of nearly \$230 million over eight years through the attorney general's Research Initiative to recruit and retain top academic talent

from across the nation.

"The A&M System is making unprecedented investments in faculty and facilities and I could not be more proud about it," Chancellor Sharp said.

For more information about the Carnegie Classification, visit <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/>.

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