

"The only one thing you've got going: Your ONE VOTE" - Shirley Chisholm
Early voting ends on Friday, February 28, 2020



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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 24

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 27 - March 4, 2020

What everyone should know about Reconstruction 150 years after the 15th Amendment's ratification (Final Part)

By Tiffany Mitchell Patterson

Assistant Professor of Secondary Social Studies,
 West Virginia University

Higher education

Before the Civil War, many states made teaching enslaved individuals to read a crime. Education quickly became a top priority for black Americans once slavery ended.

While northern, largely white philanthropist and missionary groups and the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, better known as the Freedmen's Bureau, did help create new educational opportunities, the African American public schools established after the Civil War ended were largely built and staffed by the black community.

Many new institutions of higher education, now called Historically Black Colleges and Universities or HBCUs, began to operate during Reconstruction.

These schools trained black people to become teachers and ministers, doctors and nurses. They also prepared African Americans for careers in industrial and agricultural fields.

Public and private HBCUs founded during Reconstruction and still operating today include Howard University in Washington, D.C., Hampton University in Virginia, Alabama State University, Morehouse College in Georgia and Morgan State University in Maryland. These colleges and universities train a disproportionate share of black doctors and other professionals even today.



Morehouse graduates from the class of 2013 celebrated in the rain when President Obama delivered their commencement address.

An incomplete transition

As the renowned black scholar W.E.B DuBois observed, racist laws and violent tactics in many states actively limited black freedom.

"The slave went free; stood for a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery," he explained.

This was by no means voluntary. Intimidated and threatened by black enfranchisement and excellence in the era of Reconstruction, white supremacists attempted to enforce subordination through violence, such as

lynching; and in systemic ways through Jim Crow laws. African Americans continued to assert their civil and constitutional rights as activists, politicians, business owners, teachers and farmers in the midst of white supremacist backlash.

With the latest voter suppression efforts restricting access to the ballot box for voters of color and the resurgence of racist violence and vitriol today, DuBois' words sound eerily familiar. At the same time, it's reassuring to recall how quickly formerly enslaved African Americans made their way to schoolhouses and public offices.

The Conversation

Pioneering black NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson dies

By BEN FINLEY

(AP) - Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated rocket trajectories and earth orbits for NASA's early space missions and was later portrayed in the 2016 hit film "Hidden Figures," about pioneering black female aerospace workers, has died. She was 101.

Johnson died Monday of natural causes at a retirement community in Newport News, Virginia, family attorney Donyale Y. H. Reavis told The Associated Press.

Johnson was one of the "computers" who solved equations by hand during NASA's early years and those of its precursor organization, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Johnson and other black women initially worked in a racially segregated computing unit in Hampton, Virginia, that wasn't officially dissolved until NACA became NASA in 1958. Signs had dictated which bathrooms the women could use.

In 1961, Johnson did trajectory



File - In this Nov. 24, 2015 photo, Willie Mays, right, looks on as President Barack Obama presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

analysis for Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 Mission, the first to carry an American into space. The next year, she manually verified the calculations of a nascent NASA computer, an IBM 7090, which plotted John Glenn's orbits around the planet.

"Katherine organized herself

immediately at her desk, growing phone-book-thick stacks of data sheets a number at a time, blocking out everything except the labyrinth of trajectory equations," Margot Lee Shetterly wrote in her 2016 book "Hidden Figures," on which the film is based.

Continues on Page 7

Broadway Bound: Former Charles Rice Learning Center student cast in "The Tina Turner Musical"



By The Hub (Dallas ISD)

When "TINA: The Tina Turner Musical" opened on Broadway in November, 2019 a familiar Dallas ISD face was on stage performing as a young version of the musical legend.

After earning second-place honors at the MLK Jr. Oratory Competition, Turner went viral with her response to a question from former Mayor Mike Rawlings at a Summer Reading Challenge kickoff. She then appeared on the joined the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for a homegrown duet and helped kick off the Dallas ISD 2018 State of the District.

Continues on Page 7



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B. Smith, model turned lifestyle guru, dead at 70



NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara “B.” Smith, one of the nation’s top black models who went on to open restaurants, launch a successful home products line and write cookbooks, has died at her Long Island home at age 70 after battling early onset Alzheimer’s disease. Smith’s family announced on social

media that she died Saturday evening. “Heaven is shining even brighter now that it is graced with B.’s dazzling and unforgettable smile,” Smith’s husband Dan Gasby said on Facebook. Smith’s eponymous Manhattan restaurant opened in 1986 and attracted a following among affluent black New

Yorkers, The New York Times recalled. Essence magazine described it as the place “where the who’s who of black Manhattan meet, greet and eat regularly.”

Smith wrote three cookbooks, founded three successful restaurants and launched a nationally syndicated television show and a magazine. Her successful home products line was the first from a black woman to be sold at a nationwide retailer when it debuted in 2001 at Bed Bath & Beyond.

In 1976, she became the second black model to be on the cover of Mademoiselle magazine, after Jolie Jones in 1969.

“You epitomized class, true beauty and dignity. Rest well Queen,” actress Viola Davis wrote on Twitter.

Smith was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s disease in 2013. She and Gasby raised awareness of the disease, and particularly its impacts on the African-American community, following her diagnosis.

Some described Smith as a “black Martha Stewart,” a comparison she said she didn’t mind though she believed the two lifestyle mavens were quite different.

“Martha Stewart has presented herself doing the things domestics and African Americans have done for years,” she said in a 1997 interview with New York magazine. “We were always expected to redo the chairs and use everything in the garden. This is the legacy that I was left.

Martha just got there first.”

In the same interview, Gasby said, “Martha is perfection and Barbara is passion.”

Smith began suffering from memory problems years before her diagnosis. She once froze for several seconds while being interviewed on the “Today Show,” prompting a doctor’s visit that led to her diagnosis. A few months later, she was missing in New York City for a day.

In 2018, Gasby revealed that he was in a relationship with another woman while caring for his ailing wife, leading to harsh criticism from some of her fans. He fired back at critics with a Facebook post about the pain of living with Alzheimer’s in the family. “I love my wife but I can’t let her take away my life,” he wrote.

The couple co-authored a book, “Before I Forget: Love, Hope, Help, and Acceptance in Our fight Against Alzheimer’s,” and have partnered with the Brain Health Registry.

Smith, a native of Pennsylvania, began her career as a fashion model in Pittsburgh and went on to serve as a spokeswoman for Verizon, Colgate, Palmolive Oxy and McCormick’s Lawry seasonings. She hosted the nationally syndicated television show “B. Smith with Style” for nearly a decade, which aired on NBC stations.

Smith is survived by Gasby, whom she married in 1992, and her stepdaughter Dana Gasby.

“Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.” – Susan B. Anthony



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Dallas Campaign Headquarters Now Open for Presidential Candidate Tom Steyer

Democratic Presidential Candidate Tom Steyer's campaign opened its Dallas headquarters office on Feb. 20 in South Dallas to a crowd of supporters, volunteers, and community and government leaders. Several speakers emphasized the importance of this election for residents of Dallas and across the country.

Jacqueline Espinal, a community organizer and founder of Reimagine Fair Park, spoke about what the campaign is doing to set itself apart in Texas and why Steyer's message especially resonates in Dallas. "We deserve a president who protects our right to clean water and breathable air. We deserve a president who works to ensure all Americans can earn a living wage and have access to the American Dream. We deserve a

president who is honest and has integrity. That man is Tom Steyer," said Espinal who added, "Tom's campaign is the only national campaign that is taking the time to listen to us."

In his remarks, Texas State Director Omar El-Halwagi described the growing momentum of the Steyer campaign in states with large African American and Latino populations. "With this new office, we're bringing even more of that momentum into Texas ahead of Super Tuesday. We are reaching out to people of diverse backgrounds and sharing how Tom's policies in healthcare, education, climate and economic justice, and other key areas will improve the lives of all Americans." Texas is one of many states that will vote on Super Tuesday and determine which presidential candidates will earn delegates



toward the party's nomination. Early voting in Texas is underway now until Feb. 28. The primary will be on March 3. This may be the most important election of our lifetime, so it is crucial that everyone casts their vote and makes their voice heard. The Tom Steyer campaign office is

located at 3614 S.Tyler St. in the Five Mile Creek area of South Oak Cliff. It will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. You are welcome to stop by to learn more about Tom Steyer, ask questions and sign up to volunteer. You can also visit the campaign website at tomsteyer.com.

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'Leaning Tower of Dallas' endures blows from wrecking ball

DALLAS (AP) — The "Leaning Tower of Dallas," a social media sensation born when a part of a building survived implosion, endured hundreds of blows from a wrecking ball Monday. Dozens of people gathered northeast of the Texas City's downtown to watch as a crane was used to batter the former Affiliated Computer Services building. But the developer now says the demolition may take days.

The 11-story building found a second life online after surviving a first demolition attempt. It inspired jokes and com-

parisons to Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa when a Feb. 16 implosion failed to bring down its core.

The company that engineered the blast said some explosives did not go off. In the following week, people flocked to the site to post photos of themselves pretending to prop up the lopsided tower.

A Friday statement from De La Vega Development suggested the demolition would be done by noon. But the core of the tower, including the elevator shafts, was still standing in the late afternoon Monday,



The former Affiliated Computer Services tower core shaft remains standing on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 in Dallas. A demolition on Sunday morning left the single tower behind. (Juan Figueroa/The Dallas Morning News via AP)

and a spokeswoman said the process is expected to take up to four days. And as the effort to top-ple the structure stretched into the late afternoon,

people began to take another genre of photo — pretending to push the tower over rather than prop it up.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

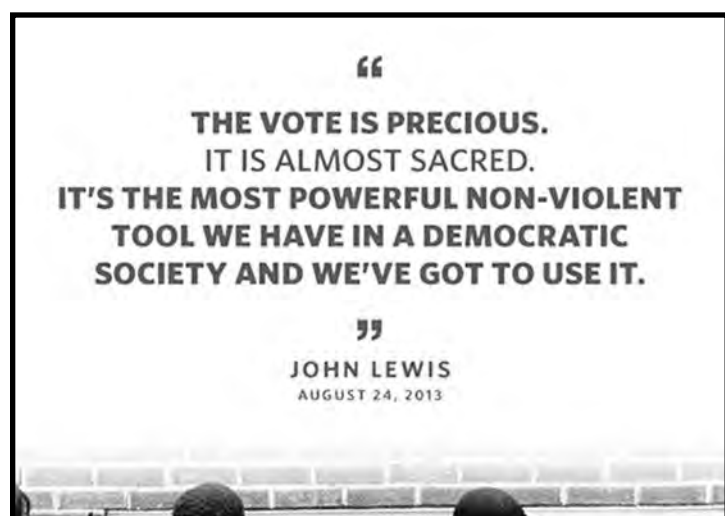
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Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Credo of the Black Press

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.

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Tips to make tax time easier

(IRS) DALLAS - As taxpayers get ready to file their taxes, one of the first things to do is get organized. To avoid refund delays, gather all year-end income documents.

"It's important to have all the necessary items on hand before starting to prepare your tax return," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman. "That helps you file a complete and accurate tax return and helps to lessen the possibility of having to do an amended return."

With the 2020 tax season in progress, taxpayers can keep in mind these tips. Following them will help get this year's taxes done accurately and on time.

Gather records. Good recordkeeping ensures nothing gets overlooked. Records such as receipts and cancelled checks can provide proof of expenses.

Start with IRS.gov. The IRS website is an excellent resource available 24/7. Taxpayers can click on the Filing tab for links to filing tips, answers to frequently asked questions, and IRS forms and publications. The IRS Services Guide (PDF) outlines the many ways to get help.

Use online tools. The IRS website is home to many useful online tools. One of these is the Interactive Tax Assistant, which provides answers to many tax questions. It gives the same answers that an IRS representative would give over the phone.

File electronically. Most taxpayers file electronically these days for its ease and convenience. The tax software uses the taxpayer's responses to complete the Form 1040 and any needed schedules. For taxpayers who filed paper returns in the past, this may be the year to consider the benefits of filing electronically.

Get free help. Taxpayers can use , , or get help from trained volunteers at sites around the country.

Explore other filing options. Taxpayers have many options to file. They can self-prepare or use a tax preparer. IRS.gov has resources to help people choose a tax pro. The IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers provides information on who has a professional credential or participates in the IRS Annual Filing

Season Program.

Choose direct deposit. The fastest and safest way to a refund is to file electronically and choose direct deposit. The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days.

Report all income. Taxpayers must report all their income from Forms W-2, Wage and Tax Statements, and Forms 1099. Other income may be reportable as well, even if the taxpayer does not receive a statement.

Avoid errors. Taxpayers should take extra time to review their tax return so they file accurately the first time. Filing electronically is the most accurate way to eliminate many common errors. Paper return filers should check all names and double check all Social Security numbers. They should also be sure to sign the tax return.

See IRS Publication 17. This guide, which is available on IRS.gov and as an eBook, covers a wide range of tax topics to help people file their tax returns.

A Poem to Share: 'Smile' by Gloria Carter



Living in the shadows, can you imagine what kind of life it is to live? In the shadows people see you as happy and free, because that's what you want them to see.

Living two lives, happy but not free. You live in the shadows for fear of someone hurting your family or the person you love. The world is changing and they say it's time to be free, but you live in the fear of just being me.








Living in the shadows feels like a safe place to be, no harm for them, no harm for me. But life is short and it's time to be free. Love who you love, because life isn't guaranteed.

Smile.

- Gloria Carter, 'Smile'

SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, February 27	Friday, February 28	Saturday, February 29	Sunday, March 1	Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4
 H - 60° L - 39°	 H - 66° L - 42°	 H - 69° L - 53°	 H - 73° L - 62°	 H - 75° L - 58°	 H - 62° L - 48°	 H - 66° L - 48°

Public memorial service remembers the private Kobe Bryant

By GREG BEACHAM

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant’s wife remembered him as a devoted father and husband who arrived early for school pickups and wrote heartfelt cards and letters.

Rob Pelinka, Bryant’s longtime agent and close friend, recalled his final texts from the NBA superstar minutes before he was killed last month in a helicopter crash. Bryant was attempting to secure an internship for the daughter of another friend who was sitting with him in the chopper.

Michael Jordan called Bryant “a little brother” and said that when he died, “a piece of me died.”

Bryant’s athletic achievements were only part of the reason roughly 20,000 people gathered Monday for a public memorial service honoring him at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. The event offered another chance to celebrate Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and the other seven victims of the crash with tears, memories and laughs.

Los Angeles already knew Bryant was much more than a basketball icon. His friends and family told the world.

“I couldn’t see him as a celebrity, nor just an incredible basketball player,” Vanessa Bryant said. “He was my sweet husband and the beautiful father of my children. He was mine. He was my everything.”

The ceremony included musical numbers by Beyonce, Alicia Keys and Christina Aguilera. The event concluded with a screening of “Dear Basketball,” Bryant’s Academy Award-winning short film about reluctantly saying goodbye to his passion upon his retirement from the Lakers in 2016.

Fans, many wearing Bryant’s jersey or team colors, filled the seats at the arena where Bryant played for the final 17 seasons of a two-decade NBA career spent entirely with Los Angeles’ most popular sports franchise.

The mourners included Lakers legends Jerry West, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Pau Gasol. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver joined Jordan, Shaquille O’Neal, Phil Jackson, Dwyane Wade and dozens of current NBA players. Celebrities such as Kanye West, Kim Kardashian, Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez also attended.

After Jimmy Kimmel welcomed the crowd, Vanessa Bryant provided a poignant window into the family’s life with Gianna and her three sisters — Natalia, Bianka and Capri. She emphasized Kobe Bryant’s paternal devotion, which had only grown after his retirement from the Lakers.

“God knew they couldn’t be on this Earth without each other,” said Vanessa Bryant, who had been with Kobe since 1999. “He had to bring them home to have them together. Babe, you take care of our Gigi. And I got Nati, Bibi and Coco. We’re still the best team.”

Jordan, the Chicago Bulls star whose career was wrapping up as Bryant’s was starting in the late 1990s, praised Bryant as “one of my dear friends. He was like a little brother. ... As I got to know him, I wanted to be the best big brother that I could be.”

O’Neal and Bryant joined the Lakers together in 1996 and won three consecutive championships during eight tumultuous seasons in purple and gold. Although their relationship was often rocky in public, O’Neal said the two were always friendly in private, even comparing their dynamic to John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Calling Bryant “a loyal friend and a true Renaissance man,” O’Neal said the pair “pushed each other to play some of the greatest basketball of all time.”

O’Neal also got the biggest laugh in the somber service with a profane joke about an exchange in which Shaq told Kobe there was no “I” in team, but Bryant responded by noting that there is an “M-E.”

The ceremony began with Beyonce performing her songs “XO” and “Halo” with dozens of backup musicians. Keys performed Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata” later in the program, and Aguilera sang “Ave Maria.”

The five-time NBA champion’s two retired jersey numbers — 8 and 24 — hang high above the arena where he became the third-leading scorer in league history. Lakers star LeBron James surpassed him on the night before Bryant’s death.

Mike Bloomberg is reiterating a commitment to releasing his tax returns when they are ready

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg is reiterating a commitment to releasing his tax returns when they are ready.

The billionaire said during Tuesday night’s debate in Charleston, South Carolina, that he is working on readying his returns for release “as fast as we can.”

In last week’s debate in Las Vegas, Bloomberg said that it takes “a long time” to compile his tax returns because he makes a lot of money and “can’t go to TurboTax.”

Bloomberg runs a financial data and media company. He is worth an estimated \$60 billion.

All the other contenders on stage have released their tax returns. The other billionaire on stage, California climate activist Tom Steyer, noted that he had released a decade’s worth

of tax returns.

Bloomberg is one of the world’s richest men and has funded numerous candidates and political causes.

Even when he’s not on stage, former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg is getting his message out.

The billionaire’s campaign is blanketing airwaves nationwide, and Tuesday night’s debate was no exception. Bloomberg ads were featured during the first two commercial breaks of the debate ahead of Saturday’s South Carolina primary.

The Bloomberg ads highlight his experience in the business community and as mayor, and they outline some of his key policy proposals. They also feature reporting that President Donald Trump is wary of Bloomberg’s rise in Democratic polls.

Bloomberg has spent more than \$500 million of his own money on his presidential campaign in the last three months.

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg is urging restraint on fully legalizing marijuana, saying that more scientific research is needed.

The former New York City mayor said at Tuesday night’s presidential debate in Charleston, South Carolina, that it’s “just nonsensical” to push forward to full legalization without more research on the effects of the drug, particularly on young people.

Many Democrats in the field have advocated various levels of loosening drug policies, ranging from decriminalization to legalization. Bloomberg said he backs decriminalization.

News You Ought to Know

Dallas Library card holders can take internet home with new hotspot lending program



By The Hub

The Dallas Public Library is making it possible for more Dallas homes to have internet access by having mobile hotspots available for check out at 10 branches starting March 2.

Meanwhile, a grant from the 1Million Project Foundation is providing mobile internet access for about 5,000 Dallas ISD high school students.

The new DPL program will provide 900 mobile hotspots at the identified library locations to give residents the opportunity to access online resources for up to 30 days at home. More than 42 percent of Dallas residents do not have a fixed

internet connection in their home, according to the 2016 American Communities Survey.

Beginning Feb. 20, hotspots can be placed on request just like a library book and it must be checked out at the designated location. Hotspots must be checked out in-person with no option to renew at one of the Dallas Public Library locations listed below.

Hotspots are available at the following branches:

1. Skyline Branch,
2. Pleasant Grove Branch
3. Prairie Creek Branch
4. Dallas West Branch
5. Martin Luther King Branch
6. Highland Hills Branch
7. Arcadia Park Branch
8. Bachman Lake Branch
9. Paul Laurence Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest Branch,
10. Polk Wisdom Branch

Dallas City Council approved the purchase of the hotspots during the budget adoption process in September.

How deadly is new

coronavirus? It’s still too early to tell

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists can’t tell yet how deadly the new virus that’s spreading around the globe really is — and deepening the mystery, the fatality rate differs even within China.

As infections of the virus that causes COVID-19 surge in other countries, even a low fatality rate can add up to lots of victims, and understanding why one place fares better than another becomes critical to unravel.

People who travel generally are healthier and thus may be better able to recover, noted Johns Hopkins University outbreak specialist Lauren Sauer. And countries began screening returning travelers, spotting infections far earlier in places where the medical system wasn’t already strained.

That’s now changing, with clusters of cases in Japan, Italy and Iran, and the death toll outside of China growing.

“You’ve got to vote, vote, vote, vote. That’s it; that’s the way we move forward.” - Michelle Obama



“When my mom was diagnosed with cancer, I wanted her to have access to the best treatments available.”

SONEQUA MARTIN-GREEN
Stand Up To Cancer Ambassador

Photo By MATT SAYLES

THAT'S WHY I'M SO PASSIONATE ABOUT EXPANDING AWARENESS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

You want the best treatments for your loved ones. My mom's cancer was treated using a therapy made possible by clinical trials. I want all people diagnosed with cancer to have access to the treatments that will make them long-term survivors, like my mom.

Cancer clinical trials may be the right option for you or a loved one. The more information you have about clinical trials, the more empowered you will be to seek out your best treatments.

Learn more at StandUpToCancer.org/ClinicalTrials



Pioneering black NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson dies

Continued from Page 1

“The wonderful gift that Katherine Johnson gave us is that her story shined a light on the stories of so many other people,” Shetterly said Monday. “She gave us a new way to look at black history, women’s history and American history.”

Johnson considered her work on the Apollo moon missions to be her greatest contribution to space exploration. Her calculations helped the lunar lander rendezvous with the orbiting command service module. She also worked on the Space Shuttle program before retiring in 1986.

Johnson and her co-workers had been relatively unsung heroes of America’s Space Race. But in 2015, President Barack Obama awarded Johnson — then 97 — the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

The “Hidden Figures” book and film followed, telling the stories of Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, among others. Johnson was portrayed in the film by actress Taraji P. Henson. The film was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar and grossed more than \$200 million worldwide.

Johnson was born Katherine Coleman on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, near the Virginia border. The small town had no schools for blacks beyond the eighth grade, she told The Richmond Times-Dispatch in 1997.

She left after the first session to start a family with her first husband, James Goble, and returned to teaching when her three daughters grew older. In 1953, she started working at the all-black West Area Computing unit at what was then called Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton.

Johnson spent her later years encouraging students to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“Just last week, she was giving an interview to a high schooler who wanted to talk to her in French,” Reavis said. “She had two degrees. One in French, and one in Mathematics.”

Looking back, Johnson said she had little time to worry about being treated unequally.

“My dad taught us ‘you are as good as anybody in this town, but you’re no better,’” Johnson told NASA in 2008. “I don’t have a feeling of inferiority. Never had. I’m as good as anybody, but no better.” NEWS

Broadway Bound: Former Charles Rice Learning Center student cast in “The Tina Turner Musical”

Continued from Page 1

By E. Davis, Staff Writer

The 11-year-old Oak Cliff native, Broadway actor, was back in North Texas to visit and perform in a Black History Month program at UNT Dallas. Skye got to sing with her former choir and share about her journey since landing the role of a young Tina Turner in the Broadway musical about the legendary singer's life.

Skye will next appear in an upcoming film about the late Aretha Franklin, premiering in October.

Create your business and financial plans (Part One)

Write up your plans for a targeted, profitable business.

Starting a business can be exciting, but that excitement may be overshadowed by anxiety if you start this new adventure without detailed research and plans to guide you along the way. In addition to guidance, a business and financial plan can help to attract investors and open up more options for funding your idea.

After you’ve determined that you have a viable business idea and your market research has given you enough insights, it’s important to apply this information to your business planning — especially as it relates to money.

Create your business and marketing plan

Using the results of your market research, you can outline:

- *Details for your service or product:* This means a description of what it is and what the market is for it.
- *Branding:* This is the personality and messaging behind your business. Maybe you want the public to see your business as innovative and cutting-edge, or maybe your business is more about establishing a trusting relationship with customers.
- *Market trends:* These are the challenges facing your potential industry, what’s most popular with your competition, and how you plan to address those factors.
- *Objectives:* What is your top priority in each aspect of your business, including, funding, marketing, and day-to-day operations?
- *Strategies:* How do you plan to accomplish everything? Remember to be very detailed.

By incorporating the results of your market research into the overall vision of your business, you can better align your marketing efforts to drive sales and give yourself a competitive edge.

For instance, if your target market is everyday families with toddlers, you’ll have to create a marketing plan to reach them in places they’ll be. This could mean physically locating to where they are, like down the street from a school or park, or paying for ads on websites they use most.

Another example could be dealing with your competition. If you plan to compete based on price, you’ll need to see how price cuts might impact your income. There’s no use making sales while losing money, since your business likely won’t be able to survive it.

Your business plan may also be useful when you reach the stage of hiring staff. You will want to hire people that fit the personality of your business and whose values align with it. Referring to your plan can help guide you in that process.

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To Be Continued Next Week...



From the desk of

MIKE BLOOMBERG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country's 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won't happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I've included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I'm President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,


Mike Bloomberg



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For more information visit

MikeForBlackAmerica.com