"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 18

By Shaun Rabb/FOX 4 News

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 11 - 17, 2024

Doctor voted 1st Black president of Parkland



Dr. James Griffin was born in a segregated Parkland unit. Photo Credit/FOX 4 News

DALLAS - The staff at Parkland Hospital voted Dr. James Griffin as president of art since I graduated medical Parkland medical staff.

The Dallas native is the first African American to hold the position at the county hospital.

FOX 4's Shaun Rabb spoke with the anesthesiologist about his accomplishment and life.

His office is adorned with art, not only for its beauty, but because of the messages meshed in the mosaics.

CIRCULATION

VERIFICATION

"I've just been collecting school," Dr. Griffin said. "Communities and individuals try to present some of their life circumstance through their craft."

So too does Dr. Griffin, who is president-elect of the Parkland medical staff, an historic first.

"In 1958, until I became a

Continue **Griffin** Page 2

President Biden, Congressional Black Caucus bid farewell to the late Eddie Bernice Johnson

"Without an Eddie Bernice Johnson, there would be no Vice President [Kamala] Harris," Pastor Michael Waters said at the Monday wake.

BY JASON WHITELY, WFAA-TV/Texas Tribune



Eddie Congresswoman Bernice Johnson.

"Without an Eddie Bernice Johnson, there would be no Vice President [Kamala] Harris. Without Eddie Bernice Johnson,

kicks off annual **MLK Celebration** Week

City of Dallas

DALLAS - The City of Love Field, Renaissance Dallas MLK Celebration Hotel, Black Voters Matter Week starts Jan. 9, 2024. and H-E-B. The MLK Day Hosted by the Office of Parade presenting sponsor is Community Care, HELP, PavCom,

"The 2024 MLK Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Celebration Week theme:

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, in her Washington, D.C. office on July 18. 2018. Photo Credit: Leigh Vogel for The Texas Tribune

k rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2024/01/09/eddiebernice-johnson-bidenfuneral/">

Joseph Biden, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Democratic leader U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

DALLAS - President and dozens of elected officials from across the state and around the country spent Monday night in Dallas remembering the late

there would be no U.S Supreme Court Justice Brown Jackson," said Pastor Michael Waters. "Eddie Bernice Johnson extends a baton from the balcony of heaven."

The wake began at 6:30 p.m. at Concord Church in southern Dallas County.

U.S. Representatives James Clyburn, Bennie Thompson, Jasmine Crockett, Gregory Meeks, Marc Veasey, Sylvia Garcia, Al Green, Sanford Bishop, former U.S. Trade Representative and former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, State Senators Royce

Continue **EBJ** Page 2

and other partners, MLK Week 2024, presented by JBJ Management, designates a time to reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Work Force Solutions, Alpha

The week includes a Day of Reflection, Prayer and Dedication, Job Fair, Equity Symposium, Indicator's Youth Summit, Candle Lighting Ceremony, Community Clean-up, Scholarship & Awards Gala, and culminates with the annual MLK Day parade on Jan. 15.

This year's MLK Week is made possible with support from Presenting Sponsor, JBJ Management, as well as support from several other sponsors, including Dallas

"Dream the Impossible Dream: Arise and Pursue the Legacy," encourages individuals to chase their most ambitious dreams and work towards leaving a lasting impact. It emphasizes the importance of perseverance and determination in overcoming obstacles and achieving greatness identical to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Candace Wicks, vice chair of the MLK Community Center Advisory Board.

Brown-Trimble, Clara chair of the MLK Community Center Advisory Board, echoed the heartfelt sentiments of Dr. King.

Continue MLK Page 2

Petition calls for recall of Dallas Mayor **Eric Johnson after** party switch

Johnson, formerly a Democrat, joined the Republican Party last year.

BY MADALEINE RUBIN/Texas Tribune

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson speaks at The Texas Tribune Festival in Austin on Sept. 22, 2023. Credit: Eli Hartman/The Texas Tribune <*link rel="canonical"* href="https://www.texastribune.org/2024/01/09/dallasmayor-eric-johnson-recallpetition/">

"Petition calls for recall of Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson after party switch" was first published by The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, gov-

and statewide ernment issues.

A three-time former Dallas City Council candidate is circulating a petition to oust Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson in response to his switch to the Republican Party last year.

Davante Peters, a local activist and owner of a Dallas health store, said Tuesday that he has obtained about 1,100 signatures in support of recalling Johnson. Peters told The Texas Tribune that Johnson's political party affiliation switch and

Continue Johnson Page 2



Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson speaks at The Texas Tribune Festival in Austin on Sept. 22, 2023. Photo/Credit: Eli Hartman/The Texas Tribune



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 76 Years



Additional Funeral Photos

Continued Page 1 - President Biden, Congressional Black Caucus bid farewell to the late **Eddie Bernice Johnson**

West and Nathan Johnson were among many officials who attended Monday night.

"Eddie Bernice Johnson was our yellow rose. She was a civil rights fighter. She did not allow injustices to get by her. She would work across the aisle, but she would fight for what is right," said U.S.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston.

President Biden arrived at the sanctuary at 7:54 p.m. The service paused for him to meet with

Johnson's family in front of the sanctuary. The president then turned to Johnson's white casket, said a prayer and put a kiss on her coffin.



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson casket. Photo Credit: Dr. Ester Davis

Additional Funeral Photos







Continued Johnson Page 1

absence at several City Council meetings last year made him doubt the mayor's commitment to his position.

Dallas City Secretary Bilierae Johnson confirmed to The Dallas Morning News that Peters filed his petition Friday. Peters said he must obtain over 103,000 signatures from registered voters by March 5 in order for the petition to reach Dallas' City Council, who

can decide whether to hold a mayoral recall election.

"If we regular people didn't go to work, we wouldn't have a job," Peters said. "I feel like our leadership should be held to that same standard."

According to Dallas' city charter, the petition must be signed by 15% of registered voters eligible to vote in the city's most recent general election within 60 days in order to move forward. If Peters hits that threshold and the city's secretary

finds that all signatures are valid, the City Council can choose to bring the recall to a vote.

In Dallas, the mayoral office and all City Council positions are nonpartisan voters do not see candidates' party affiliation when they cast ballots. But Johnson's announcement in September that he was switching to the Republican Party prompted backlash from some voters. The mayor's move turned Dallas, solidly Democratic, into the country's largest city with a GOP mayor.

Kardal Coleman, chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party, started an online petition last year calling for the two-term mayor — a former longtime Democrat — to resign. As of Tuesday, it has over 2,300 signatures.

Peters said he felt that the online petition was a "symbolic effort." His recall petition is the first filed with the city's secretary against a Dallas City Council mem-

ber since a failed effort to unseat a council member in 2017.

Johnson's office did not respond on Tuesday to requests for comment on the petition.

In September, a KERA News analysis of city records revealed that Johnson has missed over 130 unexcused hours of council meetings, including 13 total meetings — more than any other current Dallas City Council member.

"We have big issues here, and Dallas is rapidly changing," Peters said. "We need someone who is going to be cognizant and present."

Peters said he hopes the petition will gain support from Coleman, other Dallas Democrats and community activists.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org/2024/01/09/d allas-mayor-eric-johnsonrecall-petition/.

Continued Griffin Page 1

2nd grader, my parents couldn't vote. So to be elected by my peers, I think takes on special connection. It connects me back to a point where we didn't have a voice and now you have given a voice to someone who had a different background. I think it's very important," he explained. "And that resonates with me, with responsibility and accountability."

And significance, as Dr.

Griffin, professor of anesthesiology at UT Southwestern and chief of anesthesiology services at Parkland, was born in 1958 in the segregated colored unit at Parkland.

"Even though we had the social barrier in 58, Parkland still is that bridge that makes it possible for us to overcome other barriers we have in our society," Dr. Griffin added.

"We all have a responsibility to make sure that the next generation has the tools to make sure that

their intellectual motivation is not left in the hallway, but it actually goes into the room at the bedside of the patient," he answered.

Not only passing on the practice of medicine, but like art, bringing unique experiences and backgrounds to be passed to the next generation.

"That we have not only a responsibility to care, but it has to be in the context of socially conscious and compassionate care, that's very important."

Continued MLK Page 1

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. Whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward," she said. "In 2024 let us all Dream the Impossible Dream: Arise and Pursue the Legacy!"

A longstanding tradition of Celebration Week, the MLK Scholarship and Awards Gala will take place on

Jan. 13. Its goal is to support educational aspirations for City of Dallas students and honor residents whose contributions to their community reflect the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes.

Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III is a pastor, leader, social activist and educator. He is also committed to and has devoted his life to economic justice and empowerment in underserved communities and touching and transforming the lives of the disenfranchised. For the past 40 years, Dr. Haynes has served as a visionary and innovative senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Under his servant leadership, the ministry and membership of the church has grown from less than 100 members in 1983 to over 13,000.

Page 3

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Pursuing the Goal in the Christian Life Philippians 3:1-21



Having employed the words - "Finally, my brethren" in Philippians 3:1, one would have concluded that the grand Apostle Paul was about to conclude this epistle. However, Paul was urged to continue this epistle, informing us that there was danger lurking among the Philippian believers because of the insidious teaching of the Judaizers. Certain men, called the Judaizers, insisted that Gentile believers had to submit to the law, especially the law of circumcision in order to be saved. To abolish this error, Paul was deeply urged to warn the Philippian believers of this dangerous teaching of the Judaizers.

Philippians 3:1-21 may be outlined as follows: I. The Dangerous Teaching of the Judaizers Revealed – Philippians 3:1-3; II. The Pedigree of Paul Unveiled – Philippians 3:4-14; III. The Exhortation to Steadfast Spiritual Maturity Philippians 3: 15-21.

I. The Dangerous

Part I

Teaching of the Judaizers Revealed -Philippians 3:1-3

In verse 1, having the words - "Finally, my brethren", one would gather that Paul was about to end this epistle. On the other hand, Paul was moved to warn the Philippian believers of the danger involving the teaching of the Judaizers. The reminder to "rejoice in the Lord" was not out of place with the warnings that Paul was about to discuss. Spiritual perils in

the Christian life should never be faced apart from the joy that we have in Christ.

Paul uses the words "write the same things" to emphasize the importance to repeat this information regarding the Judaizers. Paul was not hesitant in revealing this information about the Judaizers. For the Philippian believers, Paul felt it was "safe"; that is, it served to warn the believers about the Judaizers' wrong teaching. Paul is calling on the believers to exercise vigiBy Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

lance in view of the wrong teaching of the Judaizers.

In Paul's exhortation to vigilance, he uses some descriptive expression in verse 2 to single out the Judaizers: "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of concision." It is very clear that Paul was referring to the Judaizers who insisted on circumcision as a requirement for salvation.

As advocating a dangerous doctrine, the Judaizers were evil workers who operated outside the circle of grace! In

contrast to those who advocated the cutting of the flesh, Paul indicated that believers "are the circumcision", for they are the ones who are truly circumcised spiritually. They "worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus" (v. 3). As believers, we don't' hinge our hope or merit on anything of the flesh, aware that we are saved by grace, not by any works of the flesh (Ephesians 2:8-9).

May God Bless!



How to prepare your home for freezing

It's Just January And There Has **Already Been One School Shooting** This Isn't A Good Sign

temperatures

The coldest temperatures of the season thus far are expected to arrive early next week.

Credit: Bill Doss - stock.adobe.com Author: Rachel Snyder

TEXAS, USA — With the coldest air of the season thus far set to arrive in North Texas by next week. Texas Water Utilities has some tips to prepare your home for the freezing temperatures.

The coldest temperatures of the season are set to arrive Sunday afternoon into Monday.

Texas Water Utilities recommends the following tips to prepare your home for a freeze:

- Open cabinets and keep your thermostat to a consistent temperature during the day and night.
- Leave the heat on when going away for vacation during cold weather.
- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas and seal off openings in doors and air vents.
- Drain swimming pool equipment, shut down your sprinkler system, turn off outside faucets

and remove connected hoses.

- Cover outdoor spigots with faucet covers/freeze caps.
- Do not drip faucets throughout the day and night. Instead, shut off your water and run all faucets to drain out the water from your pipes right before going to bed. Then, in the morning, you can turn your water back on and use it during the day.
- If a pipe freezes but hasn't burst, try to thaw it out with an electric heating pad, hairdryer, or towel soaked with hot water.
- Apply heat by slowly moving the heat source toward the coldest spot on the pipes. Never concentrate heat in one area because cracking ice can shatter a line.

More tips and information are available on SouthWest Water Company's website.

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



The month of January has always been viewed as a time for new beginnings. We put away the old and start afresh with the new. It gives us hope for the dawning of a new day.

There are some people who are getting new jobs during the month of January while others are getting promotions. If you are a student and starting the second semester, you are set to make good grades that will earn you a scholarship. Teachers have had a break, so they are ready to impart knowledge and wisdom.

If you have retired, you are probably planning a trip for fun and relaxation. You are finding new things to do and old friends to visit. Some retirees have found physical fitness and dance classes to stay fit.

However as joyous and intentional as we are about new goals and dreams some things for the new year remain the same.

School shootings happened throughout last year. Each time there were proposed remedies and solutions. Public officials pledged their support and, in some states school budgets were amended to support school safety.

According to the organization, Education Week, there were 37 school shootings in America last year. These shootings left 74 people killed or injured. Sadly, schools have become targets for would be shooters.

They are no longer the safe havens for children and teachers that they once were. What happened? Our society seemingly changed from caring to callous. Being tender with the young has now turned into being treacherous with them. Schools, once building blocks for the future are slowly turning into crumbling stones for our children.

What does the year 2024 look like so far? It doesn't look good. Just last week,

there was a school shooting in the state of Iowa. The small community of Perry, Iowa not far from Des Moines, Iowa has the unenviable distinction of having the 1st school shooting in America this year. Mind you, its January!

Dylan Butler, the shooter killed a 6th grade student and injured 4 students and a school administrator. This tragedy happened at Perry High School. Butler died of a self-inflicted gunshot. He was 17 years of age. It leads to the question, what is a teenager doing with a gun?

Sadness now grips the city of Perry, Iowa. Governor Kim Reynolds called the shooting a senseless tragedy. Mitch Mortvedt, assistant director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation said, "Butler made a number of social media posts around the time of the shooting". It is scary to think that Butler was giving people a step by step unfolding of this heinous act. However, this is what he did in my opinion.

He was armed with a pump-action shotgun and a small-caliber handgun according to reports.

been revealed about how Butler acquired the guns.

There is a strange and sad irony to the school shooting in Iowa. The Iowa Caucus will take place on January 15th. Many Republicans have been lukewarm when it comes to sponsoring gun control legislation. They seem to want no changes in the laws.

It will be interesting to see whether the Iowa shooting is a part of the discussions at the caucus sites. The polls show that the former president is leading in the polls by a wide margin. Does he have a position on gun violence? Probably not as he is busy talking about the 2020 election.

Guns are too accessible in this country. What will tilt the scales and make legislators pass gun control legislation? How many children will have to lose their lives before lawmakers pass stronger laws?

Now the families of those assaulted will grieve and be stricken with fear. The 6th grader who lost his life will not be in school next week. His seat will be empty and he won't be on the playground. Oh America, we can't go on this way.



The Dallas Post Tribune Newspaper the "Oldest Black-Owned Newspaper" serving North Texas

Information has still not

James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

January 11 - 17, 2024

CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

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Homelessness Surges, **Disproportionately Affecting Black and Latino Communities**

By Stacy M. Brown



number of homeless individuals in this demographic surged by 28% between 2022 and 2023, contributing to 55% of the total increase in homelessness during this period.

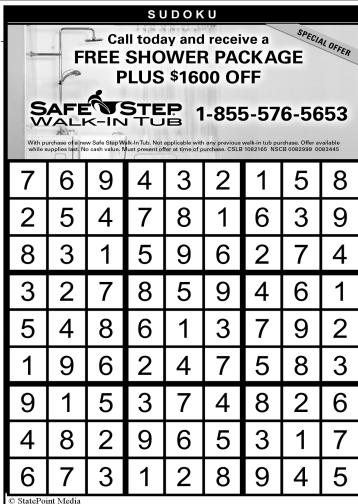
"Our society is selective on who is worthy enough to receive sympathy and assistance: Black or white, sober, or addicted, mother or

(ARP), the largest singleyear investment in preventing and ending homelessness in U.S. history, has played a role in the current rise.

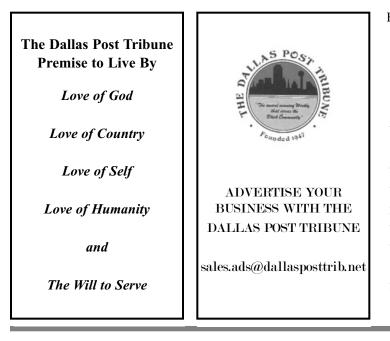
The 2023 Point-in-Time Count data underscored the urgency of the situation, revealing increases across various demographics

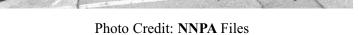
• Sheltered homelessness rose by 13.7%

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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.





The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, revealing a distressing 12% surge in homelessness since 2022. The report, encompassing the Housing Inventory Count, paints a bleak picture of the current state of homelessness, with a staggering 653,104 individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2023—the highest since the national reporting on the Point-in-Time count

began in 2007.

Of significant concern is the disproportionate impact on Black communities, constituting nearly 4 in 10 of those experiencing homelessness. Despite comprising just 13% of the total U.S. population, individuals identifying as Black accounted for 37% of the homeless population.

Equally alarming is the plight of the Latino community, as almost one-third of people experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic or Latino. The

father, married or single. We choose according to personal politics who is worthy of stability, who doesn't deserve support, and when it is acceptable for someone to be without shelter," author, poet, and blogger Archuleta Chisolm wrote for BlackGirlNerds.com.

While the latest report indicates progress in addressing homelessness, with HUD projecting to serve 330,000 people through increased grants to homeless service organizations, challenges persist. The expiration of resources from President Biden's American Rescue Plan

- · Unsheltered homelessness rose by 9.7%
- Homelessness among individuals rose by 10.8%
- Homelessness among people in families with children rose by 15.5%
- Homelessness among unaccompanied youth rose by 15.3%
- Homelessness among veterans rose by 7.4%
- Chronic homelessness among individuals rose by 12%

HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge acknowledged the

Continue Surges Page 5

Quinn Minute **Attention spans**

By Rix Quinn

Do people today really have shorter attention spans?

Well, it appears that because multiple messages bombard us daily, we mentally "delete" those we don't currently need. (This explains why some folks forget what they had for breakfast, or why I call so many of my friends "Pal.")

Latest reports - compiled by scientists who pay attention - set the average adult attention span at only eight minutes. It's reportedly even shorter if you're a rabbit, and shorter still if you're a roaming animal, like a rabbit with amnesia.

The key to getting attention, research says, is to appeal to as many senses as possible. If we can see something, hear it, and have a chance to "talk back" to it (such as responding to a message by typing a response), we're more likely to retain it.

Following this logic, the best way to make a person remember you is to meet her, ask questions, listen to her answers, shake her hand, then buy her dinner.

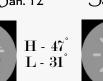
A few years ago, we called this a "date." Today, however, we applaud it as a great scientific discovery.

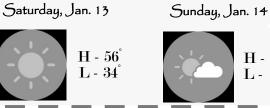
So, what have we learned? (1) To get somebody's attention, ask him or her out for dinner. (2) To keep that person's attention, limit the date to eight minutes.

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW



Friday, Jan. 12





H - 42°

 $L - 20^{\circ}$

Monday, Jan. 15

H - 29° L - 18

Tuesday, Jan. 16



Lewis, Dono back to form at perfect time for Cowboys

By Patrik Walker DallasCowboys.com Staff Writer

H 63[°]

L-45



Photo Credit/Dallas Cowboys

FRISCO, Texas — When training camp got underway this past July, things looked wildly different for both DaRon Bland, Jourdan Lewis and Donovan

injury to Lewis in 2022. Lewis hadn't been medically cleared yet to participate in practice and, as such, was relegated to the PUP list (physically unable

again.

"I feel like that's my mentality," said Lewis ahead of Super Wild Card Weekend, having taken the ball away twice over the past two weeks. "It doesn't matter what happens, out there, I'm fighting. I know I'm one of the best fighters

"Wherever that takes me, I'm ready for the situation."

Fast forward to the end of the regular season and Lewis is clearly back in prime form — also the win-

an all-time NFL record for most pick-sixes in a single season (5).

Oh, and Bland is no longer a nickel corner, having set the aforementioned record as an outside corner following the loss of First-Team All-Pro cornerback Trevon Diggs to a torn ACL months ago.

In Week 18, to help the Cowboys clinch the NFC East title and the No. 2 seed in the NFC brackett of the NFL playoffs, Bland delivered his ninth interception of the season to help bury Washington the Commanders. It was his first since the Nov. 30 matchup against the Seattle Seahawks, and Bland is now back on the INT horse with the playoffs being next on the menu.

"Yeah, I was telling the guys that [assistant secondary coach Al Harris] was making the joke of, 'How long has it been?" said Bland with a smile. "So it felt good to have another one. ... Everybody's starting to get on their roll.

"It's not just me. It's not just the safeties. It's not just the linebackers. It's everybody on the field."

To his point, not only has Lewis grabbed an interception (Week 17) and forced a fumble (Week 18) before then recovering it himself, but Donovan Wilson has way back from injury as well to begin this season, having missed all of training camp and the preseason with a calf strain; but it appears he's also back to form.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

"It's always been like that, ever since he came in 2019," said Lewis of Wilson. "We've always been going back and forth with getting turnovers. It's a good feeling to see my guy getting turnovers, too."

The secondary in Dallas is regaining their takeaway mojo ahead of Super Wild Card Weekend, and the expectation that they'll also have Stephon Gilmore (shoulder) available for the contest only increases their odds of defensive success on Sunday afternoon.

With Bland on fire this season, and with Lewis and Wilson having located their playmaker variants at the right time, there's a great chance Jordan Love will have his hands full.

"It means we've got playmakers at every single position, honestly," said Lewis. "That makes our defense more dangerous and you have to prepare for everybody, and the other team has to be all-in on their details. It's kind of hard to prepare for just about everybody on defense, especially when you have Micah and those guys eat-

Wilson. Bland was coming off of a breakout season as a rookie, but as a nickel corner who stepped in following

to perform) and wasn't activated until the start of the season, then starting his journey to becoming the the season-ending best version of himself around the league. ner of the Ed Block Courage Award — and Bland has taken the throne as the league's leader in interceptions, also setting

also logged two interceptions in as many weeks ahead of the wild card have with us firing on all matchup with the Packers. Wilson was working his postseason."

ing up front. "It's a good feeling to cylinders going into the

Continued Surges Page 4

gravity of the issue. "Homelessness is solvable and should not exist in the States," Fudge United declared. "From day one, this administration has put forth a comprehensive plan to tackle homelessness, and we've acted aggressively and in conjunction with our federal, state, and local partners to address this challenge. We've made positive strides, but there is still more work to be done. This data underscores the urgent need for support for proven solutions and strategies that help people quickly exit homelessness and that prevent homelessness in the first place." The report further attrib-

utes the overall increase to a rise in the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time, with a 25% increase between fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Data from the report emphasized the pressing need for sustained, collaborative efforts to combat homelessness and support vulnerable populations nationwide.

"HUD has substantially invested in addressing the housing needs of those facing homelessness, particularly the most vulnerable populations," officials wrote in a release.

Legal challenge to Dallas County's cash bail system ends after U.S. Supreme Court declines to step in

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals previously held that federal courts can't weigh in on the constitutionality of the county's pre-trial processes.

BY POOJA SALHOTRA

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2024/01/08/suprem e-court-cash-bail-dallascounty/">

A six-year legal battle over Dallas County's bail practices ended Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an appeals court decision.

Daves v. Dallas County was filed in federal district court in 2018 by criminal defendants who argued the county's pre-trial detention system discriminates against defendants who can't afford bail.

A district court judge issued a temporary order saying the county's postarrest procedures routinely violate the constitutional rights of inmates who can't afford to pay for release as they await the resolution of

Judge David Godbey sided with the plaintiffs' allegation that the county uses "wealthbased detention" by imposing pre-set bail amounts that often keep poor defendants locked up while wealthier ones go free. Godbey gave the county 30 days to change its system.

On appeal, though, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Supreme Court precedent requires federal courts to abstain from revising state bail bond procedures. The court also said Texas' new bail laws enacted through 2021's Senate Bill 6 mooted the lawsuit. Signed by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2021, SB 6 banned the release of people accused of violent crimes on personal bonds, requiring that they instead pay cash.

closed because the highest court on Monday said they would not hear the case.

to ensure that defendants who have not been convicted and are awaiting trial show up to court hearings. Most jurisdictions across the country rely on a money bail system, where defendants can pay a bond amount set by a fixed schedule for their release. Defendants can either pay the full bail amount, which is refundable if they show up for all of their hearings. Or they can pay a nonrefundable percentage — usually 10% — to a bail bond company that pays the total bond amount. If a defendant can't afford to pay, they are often stuck in jail for weeks or months.

In Texas jails, about 70% The appeals court deci- of inmates are awaiting trial,

their cases. U.S. District sion stands and the case is according to data from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

> Existing Texas law Bail is a legal mechanism requires officials to consider a defendants' ability to pay when setting bail. But in Dallas County, a judge found that judicial magistrates set bail amounts based on the alleged crime and prior convictions without determining an inmate's ability to pay.

> > Criminal justice advocates say that cash bail systems are both unconstitutional and contribute to overcrowding in county jails. Research has found that cash bail is associated with an increase in recidivism, job loss and racial disparities and does not improve public safety. People detained pretrial are also more likely to plead guilty than those

> > > Continue Legal Page 6

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EDITORIAL PAGE



"... The Wonders of the Woman From Waco," Dr. Haynes

"My Day"

By Dr. J. Ester Davis

I remember the 'pomp and circumstance' of electing the woman from Waco.

Her name was Eddie Bernice Johnson, affectionately referred to as EBJ.

And today, Wednesday, January 10, 2024, we celebrated the trials and traverse of the 'woman from Waco', Texas, through the cross bars of the Veteran Administration-to-Texas History-to-American History to her final resting place in Austin, Texas. It was amazing for me as a young paralegal to watch this royal lineup of black history makers in South Dallas create this 'ideal' for their people. Her polished image was one young women adopted and emulated. Dr. Emmet Conrad often introduced her at the African American events. The Prince Hall Masons, where the Sovereign Grand Commander resided at the time, introduced her to the supreme orders. Noah Brenham, a labor union

i.e., Drs., Dorsey, Paige, Thompson, Mason, Prince, Watkins, Lundy acquiesced their wives, patients and their networks for not only the Democratic VOTE, but upfront and personally for EBJ. The massive cohesive coalition of DISD Teachers continued to support her every move and were indeed the power behind the play. I recall vividly the two "Eddie's". Eddie Brice Cunningham (EBC), aka Attorney E. Brice Cunningham, who appeared before the United States Supreme Court on behalf of DISD's desegregation of schools and Eddie Bernice Johnson (EBJ) who continued to affect the excellence of DISD. It was equally as endearing to hear the two 'Eddie's talk about their names.

The funeral for the 'woman from Waco' was one-of-a kind. The Mayor of Dallas called her the 'lioness of the city'. One of the grandsons cited her ing with in heaven. Mickey Leland, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan. In the background I heard addendum to this lineup... Thurgood Marshall, Benjamin Hooks, Ali. Others speakers spoke of her as the 'quiet giant' in Congress, comparing the workhorses to the show horses.

And finally, the Eulogist! This was a stroke of genius...and so appropriate for this time on this occasion. I have received several questions in the last 12 hours about the Intention Able Rev. Dr. Michael Walker. Michael was a gifted child prodigy who grew up in the South Dallas community attending Salem Institutional Baptist Church with his family. The family business was a restaurant in the Stemmons Towers on Stemmons Freeway. Young Michael started preaching as a pre-teen. The churches in South Dallas were all too



Dr. J. Ester Davis

year and his storied life is a masterpiece. He pastored a distinguished church in Boston, Mass., for years and upon retirement moved back home. On one of my travels years ago, I was reminded where he was and made adjustments. The beauty of this man called Michael, is at an impressive age he affected immensely so many youth nationwide.

On a personal note Michael's Dad, Johnny Walker, introduced me to a man I later married. Johnny kept tabs on us throughout our two-year

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'boss', was a person EBJ always recognized when in his presence. She never forgot his name or position. The other black doctors, as 'fierce and feminine'. Attorney and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries was remarkable in his accounting of who EBJ was meet-

familiar with him as a young evangelist. His fame was electric! Michael Walker was on my youth movement agenda every courtship. Thank you to the people and City of Dallas.

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com



Continued Legal Page 5

released.

"There's a false narrative that jailing people is what makes us safe," said Dustin Rynders, legal director at the Texas Civil Rights Project. "The reality is that county jails are temporary solutions until a case is addressed and it's just this expensive, inhumane process that continues to need to be reformed."

Although the case specifically concerns Dallas County, the decision could have ripple effects across the state and even nationally, as civil rights lawyers have targeted money bail systems nationwide over the past few years. In Harris County, officials agreed to a settlement

requiring the prompt no-cash release of most people arrested for misdemeanors. Only people arrested for certain charges would not be granted prompt release, and they are now afforded a bail hearing where they are represented by counsel.

Other states, including New Jersey and New York have crafted similar types of bail systems. And Illinois recently became the first state to fully eliminate cash bail. Illinois' law clarifies that everyone is eligible for pretrial release without payment, and it's the government's responsibility to prove that pretrial detention is necessary. People charged with certain felonies can still be denied pretrial release.

Appeals has jurisdiction over Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, so the court's decision in Daves v. Dallas County could preclude counties in any of those states from challenging bail practices in federal courts.

Civil rights advocates have had some success challenging bail practices in state courts. For example, Civil Rights Corps successfully argued a case in California, where the state supreme court there found that pretrial detention should only be used for "those who otherwise cannot be relied upon to make court appearances or who pose a risk to public or victim safety."

Attorneys in Daves v.

The 5th U.S. Circuit of Dallas County declined to say whether they would take the case to state court.

> "All options are on the table," said Elizabeth Rossi of Civil Rights Corps, an advocacy group that represented the plaintiffs. "State level officials bear a huge responsibility for acknowledging and fixing the devastating bail system they've allowed to fester across the state."

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African American Museum, Dallas Announces Plans For January Including Martin Luther King Jr.

DART STUDENT

Holiday Weekend

Highlights include a health fair, community/family day, the Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra concert, African American history competition, Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame event and lectures

DALLAS (Jan. 8, 2024) – The African American Museum, Dallas kicks off 2024 with an array of activities honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January and celebrating Black History Month in February. They include a health and wellness fair, family/community day, musical concerts, an African American heritage bowl competition for local high schoolers, a Black sports hall of fame event and more.

The museum will also feature three ongoing exhibitions including Central Track: Crossroads of Deep Ellum, Seeing A World Blind Lemon Never Saw, and The Souls of Black Folk: Selections from the Billy R. Allen Folk Art Collection and The Decorative Arts Collection.

Also, visitors are encouraged to view the newly dedicated Texas Historical Marker, which commemorates the Hall of Negro Life that was constructed for the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition at Fair Park in Dallas. The Hall, which celebrated the numerous achievements and deeds of the African American community in America, attracted more than 400,000 visitors over the course of the fair, with an estimated 60% of visitors being White. The African American Museum, Dallas now stands at the original site of the Hall of Negro Life. Museum leaders say they never intended to replace the Hall of Negro Life but to instead carry forward its mission.

The African American Museum, Dallas is located at 3536 Grand Ave. in Dallas' historic Fair Park.

JANUARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

FREEDOM TO THINK: AN INTRODUCTION TO MALCOLM X'S USE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS Saturday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. African American Museum, Dallas, AT&T Auditorium

Free and open to the public

Ever wondered why Malcolm X continues to be such a capable thinker and communicator? Join University of Dalals graduate fellow Kevin A. Marshall and founder of the Dawam Center for Liberal Learning and the designer of several HBCU courses, for this exploration of truth and wisdom within diverse communities. AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM YOUTH CLAS-SICAL ARTIST COMPETITION Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024, at 4 p.m. African American Museum, Dallas Free and open to the public

Come experience an afternoon of brilliantly talented young instrumentalists. The competition winner will perform at the museum's Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra concert on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (see details in February listing). Requested dress is semi-formal attire.

REALIZING THE DREAM HEALTHY LIVING EXPO

Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. African American Museum, Dallas Free and open to the public

With a mission to build strong families and community, the Realizing the Dream Healthy Living Expo will feature health screenings, wellness and financial literacy workshops, vendor marketplace, performances and more.

MUSIC UNDER THE DOME FEATURING MAHOGANY THE ARTIST Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

African American Museum, Dallas

Free and open to the public; register at aamdallas.org/events

Bringing jazz concerts to the heart of Fair Park, the three-part Music Under the Dome winter series kicks off with jazz sensation Mahogany The Artist. While admission is free, seating is limited and registration is required. Food and beverages will be available for sale.

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