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VOLUME 75 NUMBER 21

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 26 - February 1, 2023

Biden-Harris Announces New Actions to Protect Renters and Promote Affordability

Now, several federal agencies announced they would collaborate to compile data on discriminatory housing practices.

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



Photo Credit/NNPA File

The pressure on the government to do something about rising housing costs has resulted in the Biden administration announcing major new initiatives to safeguard tenants and make renting more affordable.

Now, several federal agencies announced they would collaborate to compile data on discriminatory housing practices.

A non-binding "Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights" is also included to provide clear instructions for tenants to continue

living in moderately priced rentals.

In addition, the White House is issuing a rallying cry called the "Resident-Centered Housing Challenge," with the goal of encouraging housing providers and state and local governments to bolster policy in their respective markets.

"Since taking office, the president has taken substantial steps to promote fairness in the rental market and ease the burden of rental costs for millions of American renters," administration officials wrote in a Fact Sheet.

Officials said the administration kept the national eviction moratorium in place until August 2021, which helped to prevent over 1.5 million eviction filings nationwide.

Further, the administration has delivered over 8 million rental or utility assistance payments to reduce renters' risk of eviction or housing instability.

The White House said more than \$769 million has been provided for housing has

Continue Renters Page 2

Amazon launches a subscription prescription drug service

By TOM MURPHY and HALELUYA HADERO



AP Photo/Steven Senne, File

Amazon is adding a prescription drug discount program to its growing health care business.

The retail giant said Tuesday that it will launch RxPass, a subscription service for customers who have Prime memberships. Amazon said people will pay \$5 a month to fill as many prescriptions as they need from a list of about 50 generic

medications, which are generally cheaper versions of brand-name drugs.

The company said the flat fee could cover a list of medications like the antibiotic amoxicillin and the anti-inflammatory drug naproxen.

Sildenafil also made the list. It's used to treat erectile dysfunction under the brand name Viagra and also treats a form

of high blood pressure.

Amazon sells a range of generic drugs through its pharmacy service. Some already cost as little as \$1 for a 30-day supply, so the benefit of this new program will vary by customer.

The program doesn't use insurance,

Continue Drug Page 5



Texas Senate to reconvene state redistricting hearings

DALLAS -- Wednesday, the second day of the 2023 - 88th Session of the Texas Legislature, members of the Texas Senate voted unanimously to revisit redistricting, the process by which district boundaries to which public officials are elected are drawn for all representative branches of government throughout the country. The Constitution requires redistricting to take place following the decennial U.S. Census.

Six redistricting hearings are scheduled beginning Wednesday - January 25, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. and continuing through the final hearing on Saturday - January 28, at 10:00 a.m. All hearings will take place in the Senate Finance Committee Room, Capital Ext. Rm. E1.036.

The Texas Legislature approved new redistricting maps for Texas Congressional House districts and Texas Senate and House districts during a Special Session held in 2021 following the 87th Regular Legislative Session that ended May 31. The Legislature will vote again on maps for the Texas Senate and Texas House due to lawsuits filed by two Texas Senate members which asserted that the Texas Constitution requires redistricting to occur during the first Regular Session after the census.

"This time, the Texas Constitution requires the Legislature to reconsider the redistricting process; unlike the partisan, politically-motivated midterm redistricting that took place in 2003 that reshaped state political boundaries in ways that are still evident today," said Senator West.

Continue West Page 2

Florida's rejection of Black history course stirs debate

By TERRY SPENCER and ANTHONY IZAGUIRE

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis reiterated Monday the state's rejection of a proposed nationwide advanced African American studies course, saying it pushes a political agenda — something three authors cited in the state's criticism accused him of doing in return.

DeSantis said his administration rejected the College Board's Advanced Placement African American Studies course because "we want education, not indoctrination." It was revealed last week that the Florida Department of Education recently

Continue Black Page 5



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EDITORIAL PAGE

“The Young Producers”

My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. J. Ester Davis
Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

My new year started off on an extremely negative-to-positive odyssey. In the beginning was darkness but after some faithful serious thought, there was a bright floodlight.

Megatrends are reshaping our world and how we live. Here are some ‘bread-crumbs’ to ponder.

Every minute there are 900,000 logons, 450 million tweets, 159 million emails and 15 million texts. This is all summed up as “data” captured from cell phones, computers, etc., etc., and after another few seconds that high speed stuff is inventoried, indexed and cataloged with your ID onto a mainline bi-

partisan computer sorting out every move, source and resource. In love with this ‘data’ are the young minds we clothe and feed every day. Here is the essence of this story!

With the incoming new year, our airports, planes and weather were in disarray all across the country. I had a special guest scheduled on my TV podcast show because he would be off, earning a well needed vacation. The date had been scheduled for a while and I was excited about it. All of a sudden, everybody in aviation was called back to work. I knew this was bad, but I had to keep thinking of a solution, however bleak it was. I could not miss this opportunity due to its importance and the awaiting audiences in several countries. After about three phone calls for a studio, I landed one. Probably the first three public access producers back in the 80’s was Jane Sanders, Roy Williams and myself. Even at that time, there were several young men behind the cameras in the basement of City Hall, affectionately called Dallas Community

Television (DCTV). Recently at an ‘off campus’ city council production, I saw Joseph Thomas, who was one of the early young pioneers of Dallas’ entry into the cable media world, and I wondered where he was now. Another two or three phone calls and. found him.

After a brief telephone call coupled with my plea for help, Joseph Thomas came to my rescue. The next few minutes was sheer superb divine intervention. The studio was available, a full crew of high school seniors were identified, notified, collected and in the process of setup. The set was equipped with decorum chairs, appropriate plants, headsets, lighting. A tall handsome young man approached me with an introduction that he would be my ‘director’. An initial verbal rundown was done with him while they positioned a team member at the front of the school to wait for my guest. Now, as unplanned, there were three guests in two separate vehicles. This change did not “rattle” the production team. They re-situated the chairs,

adjusted the mics and the ‘beat-went on’. My guests included two Arch Bishops and Dr. Sam, a chiropractor, welcoming the world into the new year with ‘peace and love’. Listening to the ‘countdown’, I felt as though we had worked with this crew for months.

Data is nothing but ‘breadcrumb’ covering everything it touches. Our ‘young producers’ live in our neighborhoods, ride their bikes, speed in their cars and are soaking, soaring and unabashedly moving forward. They are the best and all of this comes so very natural to them. I, of course, have a lot more to say. And as usual I am out of time. But for now, my abundance “thanks” to Lancaster High School, this Board, the outstanding leadership for your vision. It truly gives me so much pleasure to chronicle this article of good news about ‘producers’ among us.

Do NOT miss! Interview w/Betty Culbreath, ICON of Significance: 1st Black Woman, Chairman of the Board, DFW Airport, the nation’s highly rated international airport.

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Continued **Renters** Page 1

been provided for housing stability services by the Administration.

In 2022, the administration released a Housing Supply Action Plan, which set the goal of closing America’s housing supply shortfall in five years.

The administration has been making progress advancing a long-term goal of providing housing vouchers to all eligible households: through the 2022 and 2023 president’s Budgets, the administration has secured rental assistance to more than 100,000 households through the 2022 and 2023 appropriations bills and the American Rescue Plan.

And, recently, HUD pub-

lished a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on its efforts to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

As the housing market remains a major issue for renters, administration officials pointed out that inflation has reduced, but rental prices have continued to rise.

The actions are the latest by the Biden administration to curtail evictions and to help make housing more affordable.

Reportedly, tenant unions, community organizations, and legal advocacy groups have called for an all-out strategy, preparing an executive order for the Biden administration, advocating for a housing emergency declaration, and investigating rent control options.

Those plans, which involved several departments, were made to encourage federal authorities to look into alternative methods of lowering rental prices, the Washington Post reported.

Many ideas were dismissed as unrealistic by White House advisors and administration officials, and some questioned the legitimacy of such drastic measure, the newspaper stated.

The “Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights” emphasizes the importance of eviction prevention and diversion, the right to organize, and clear and fair contracts.

Over a third of the American population – 44 million households – rent their homes.

Before the pandemic, well over 2 million eviction filings and roughly 900,000 evictions occurred annually – disproportionately affecting Black women and their children, administration officials stated.

Since then, rental housing has become less affordable with some landlords taking advantage of market conditions to pursue egregious rent increases.

“These announcements recognize there are responsible housing providers – large and small, national and local – willing to treat renters fairly, but it also holds accountable those who exploit market realities at the cost of renters’ housing access and stability,” officials stated.

Continued **West** Page 1

“However it is still important for Texans to pay attention to what will take place over the coming weeks, as new Senate and House maps will advance through the legislative process to near-certain passage. What these maps will look like is important now and will be important for years to come.”

Texas Senate maps approved by the Legislature in 2021 resulted in Texas Senate District 10, whose former boundaries were entirely within Tarrant County, being redrawn to include several, less-urban North Texas counties. The map was in place for the November 2022 Midterm Elections. The previously

constructed District 10 elected a Democrat in 2018. The new District 10 elected a Republican last November. Texas Senate District 10 has elected state senators from both political parties twice each since 2002.

Two Senate Redistricting Committee hearings are scheduled for Thursday, January 26 and Friday January 27. Five of the six hearings will focus on a different region of Texas, with the Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. hearing to hear testimony primarily for West Texas. Thursday’s 9:00 a.m. hearing is for South Texas. The Thursday 1:00 p.m. hearing is for North Texas. Friday’s 10:00 a.m. hearing will focus on Central Texas. The 3:00 p.m. Friday hearing is

for the East Texas region. Saturday’s hearing will take testimony from citizens from all parts of the state. During all hearings, the committee will accept testimony regarding any region. To date, the Texas House has not scheduled redistricting hearings.

The hearings will be available by livestream at: <https://senate.texas.gov/events.php>. No in-person testimony will be taken from the general public. All testimony will be via videoconference accessible by internet capable devices. Registration must take place at least 24 hours prior to the start of each hearing.

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I CORINTHIANS STUDY

I CORINTHIANS 14:1-40

THE USE OF GIFTS

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Paul related at the end of Chapter 12 that believers should “covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” The more excellent way is by love! In Chapter 13, Paul gave us an exposition on the grand subject of love! Now as Chapter 14 opens in verse 1, Paul exhorts us to follow after love. Then he exhorts us to desire spiritual gifts, but rather to prophesy. We

should be engaged in forthtelling the word of God. What a blessing it is to share God’s word with others! In verse 2, we should note that the word “unknown” is in italics, which means that the word “unknown” is not in the original. The bible does not mention “unknown tongues.” The word is not in the original. In an assembly, we should not

speak in a language that is unknown unless somebody can do some interpreting. In verse 3, Paul stressed the importance of the gift of prophecy, which is for edification, exhortation and comfort; however, when one is speaking in an unknown tongue, he or she is edifying themselves only. Prophesying is the best way of edifying the body of Christ (vv. 4-6). Speaking in an unknown

language, unless there is an interpreter, does not edify the body. Paul even stated that a trumpet had to give the right sound to prepare for battle (vv. 7-8). The trumpet was used in the bible to alert the troops for battle! We should speak in a language that is understandable (v. 9). From verses 10-16, Paul continues to convey that unintelligible speech in the church must be interpreted for the edification of the congregation. Paul spoke in many languages, yet he spoke in a tongue that everyone could understand. Paul stressed the value of communicating in a language that would be beneficial in the church, and not bring about confusion (vv. 17-19). Paul admonished the Corinthians to stop behav-

ing as children (v. 20). Tongues are a sign to unbelievers, not to believers (vv. 21-22). If a stranger comes to a Christian meeting where everyone is shouting out in tongues, the impression given is likely to be “what a mad house” (v. 23). However, if an unbeliever comes to a meeting and hears the word in plain speech, he will come under conviction and be converted (vv. 24-25). Paul indicated in verse 26 that when the brethren came together to freely participate in service then the goal should be to edify one another. In addition, those gifted with a tongue who wanted to contribute to a service could do so, but only two or three at any one service, only if individuals gifted in interpretation were present who

could translate the language. If no interpreter were present, the tongues-speaker was to keep quiet (vv. 27-28). In verse 29, the directions for those exercising the gift of prophecy did not differ from those for tongues. Two or three prophets could speak at each service and what they said was to be carefully considered. A prophet might receive a revelation (through a vision or dream) prior to a meeting of the church and related it. Then another prophet might also experience a revelation during the course of the meeting. If so, a prophet in the midst of speaking should bring his message to a close to let the other prophet proclaim (v. 30). Continue Study Page 4



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| Dallas Housing Authority/ Buckeye Commons | 6676 Buckeye Commons Way Dallas, 75215 | Every Thursday | 9 a.m. - noon |

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JOB POSTING

Tyler Technologies is looking for a Software Engineer in Plano, TX to collaborate to refine reqs, design and create solutions which target defined business needs. Req: BS in Comp Sci, Electronics Engg, Electronics & Communication Engg, or a related field or foreign equivalent & 2 yrs exp. in C#, MS SQL Server 2016, ASP.NET MVC 5 and Web API 2, ASP.NET Core, JavaScript, Angular JS, jQuery. May have to work from unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Working from home is an option. Please send resume to Attn: HR, Tyler Technologies, 5101 Tennyson Pkwy, Plano, TX 75024. Please refer to #AP22 in your cover letter.

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I Corinthians Study I Corinthians 14:1-40 The Use of Gifts

Continued Page 3
However, what was said, should benefit everyone by way of instruction or encouragement in the Christian life (v. 31). To regulate a service, the gifted prophets were to be restrained as those gifted in tongues.
The church was a place

where people were to be edified and God was to be honored (vv. 32-33). The church needed to exercise self-control, a self-control expressed by silence in order that the assembly might be characterized by peace (v. 34, see also 28, 30). The Apostle Paul insisted silence on the parts of married women whose

husbands were present in the assembly. Such silence would express their subordination (but not inferior) relationship to their husbands. The Corinthians were not the exclusive, independent interpreters of the word of God (vv. 35-36). In conclusion (vv. 37-40), the instructions that Paul had given regarding the

Corinthian irregularities in worship and the needed corrections should not be ignored. The Corinthians were encouraged to covet the gift of prophecy, and follow the great principle found in verse 40: "Let all things be done decently and in order."

May God Bless!



SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

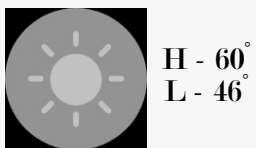


Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Jan. 26



Friday, Jan. 27



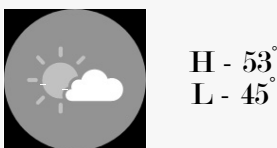
Saturday, Jan. 28



Sunday, Jan. 29



Monday, Jan. 30



Tuesday, Jan. 31



Wednesday, Feb. 1



Hurts puts MVP talk behind him, focuses on NFC title game

By DAN GELSTON



PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Asked about being an NFL Most Valuable Player finalist, Jalen Hurts revealed, “I didn’t know.” Nick Sirianni pounded his fist on a table in mock disgust and cracked “Oh man!”

when queried about his finalist snub for Coach of the Year. In other words, individual awards don’t mean a whole lot this week in Philly. Not when there’s a Super

Bowl to win. The trophy is within reach for the Eagles as they head into the NFC championship game against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday. Sirianni and several Eagles stumped for Hurts to win

MVP in the wake of The Associated Press award finalists being announced Wednesday. Hurts took a moment to soak in having his name in the mix with fellow quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and Joe Burrow as a candidate for the NFL’s highest individual prize. No Eagle has won MVP since QB Norm Van Brocklin in 1960.

“I think it’s a cool honor,” Hurts said. “I don’t really have much to say about it. I’m at a loss of words, to be honest.”

Hurts put up numbers in the regular season worthy of such consideration: Philadelphia went 14-1 in his starts and he had 3,701 yards passing, 760 yards rushing and 35 touchdowns combined. He led the Eagles to the top seed in the NFC and a playoff victory over the New York Giants.

“I hope Jalen wins it,” Sirianni said. “You want that for your players. He’s had a great year.”

Open Model and Talent ENT call for ages 16-50 this Saturday (Jan. 28) at Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center

For the fifth year, the Center will host auditions for models, actors, singers and dancers ages 16-50; registration is free and will be held from 10:30-11 a.m. with auditions from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

DALLAS (Jan. 24, 2023) – Most people assume the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center might focus on sports, but its mission is to help young people find success in a variety of ways. This Saturday (Jan. 28), the Center will host an Open Model and Talent Call for models, actors, singers and dancers ages 16-50. Free and open to the public, registration is from 10:30-11 a.m. with live auditions from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This program began in 2018 and has helped launch the modeling and entertainment careers of numerous North Texans. For example, 22-year-old Osayande Foster, a successful model with Kim Dawson and several other national agencies, is currently shooting a Nike ad. A Kim Dawson model is making thousands of dollars per shoot and another model is working with singer Gwen Stefani.

The call is hosted by Dallas-based Willie Johnson of J3 Productions, a fashion

show production and modeling management company whose mission is “to find the diamond in the rough and make him or her shine.”

The chosen individuals will spend six weeks working with Johnson and will receive professional head shots and other support. J3 Production will serve as the mother agency, and Johnson introduces the individuals to other regional and national agencies.

REQUIREMENTS: Female models should be 5’7”-6’, and male models should be 5’11”-6’3”. Singers and dancers should bring music on a flash drive. Singers may be asked to sing for 30 seconds, and dancers may be asked to perform a 45-second routine. Actors may be asked to do a cold read.

The Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is located at 1800 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas, TX 75216. For more info, go to markcuban-heroescenter.org or call 214-379-7451.

Continued **Black** Page 1

told the College Board it would bar the course unless changes are made.

The state then issued a chart late Friday that says the course promotes the idea that modern American society oppresses Black people, other minorities and women, includes a chapter on “Black Queer Studies” that the administration finds inappropriate, and uses articles by critics of capitalism.

The governor said the course violates legislation dubbed the Stop WOKE Act he signed last year. It bars instruction that defines people as necessarily oppressed or privileged based on their race. At least some writers the course cites believe modern U.S. society endorses white supremacy while oppressing racial minorities, gays and women.

“This course on Black history, what’s one of the lessons about? Queer theory. Now who would say that an important part of Black history is queer theory? That is somebody pushing an agenda,” said DeSantis, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2024.

Florida House Democratic Leader Fentrice Driskell called the administration’s rejection of the course “cowardly” and said it “sends a clear message that Black Americans’ history does not count in Florida.”

“Imagine how boring and closed minded we’d all be if

we only met ideas that we agreed with,” she said Monday.

The College Board, after a decade of development, is testing the African American Studies course at 60 high schools nationwide. No school or state would be required to offer it after its scheduled rollout.

The organization offers AP courses across the academic spectrum, including math, science, social studies, foreign languages and fine arts. Taught at a college level, students who score high enough on the course’s final exam usually earn course credit at their university.

The College Board hasn’t responded to emails and calls since Friday. It issued a statement last week saying it encourages feedback and will consider changes.

The state, in its Friday chart, criticized five living authors. The Associated Press emailed them and three responded.

— The section on “Black Queer Studies” includes readings by Roderick Ferguson, a Yale University professor of women’s, gender and sexuality studies. The state says he “exclaims, ‘We have to encourage and develop practices whereby queerness isn’t a surrender to the status quo of race, class, gender and sexuality.’”

Ferguson said that quote comes from an interview he did about his book, “One-Dimensional Queer.” The

book, he said, is a discussion of “employment discrimination, laws against LGBTQ+ people, the suppression of progressive movements in the U.S., police violence against minority communities, restrictions on immigration (and) anti-black racism.”

“These are real histories. The arguments about them are based on scholarly investigation and research — as are the arguments from the other scholars on this list,” Ferguson said. “Unfortunately, we are in a moment in which right-wing forces are mobilizing to suppress the free discussion of those realities. If we need an example of that mobilization, we could probably just turn to the forces that came together to reject this course.”

— The state calls out the course for including “Black Study, Black Struggle,” a 2016 piece by UCLA history professor Robin D.G. Kelley, saying he “argues that activism, rather than the university system, is the catalyst for social transformation.” Kelley called that description oversimplified.

His piece challenges student activists to move their efforts beyond campus and decries racism, inequality, capitalism, militarism and police brutality. But he also said activists must love everyone, “even those who may once have been our oppressors,” and read and understand Western literature if they are to criticize it.

He said one point is “that

we should not pay so much emphasis on trauma and victimization, but instead understand how we have fought for justice not just for Black people but for the whole nation (yes including struggling white people), despite the violence and oppression we have experienced.”

The state also points out Kelley wrote the 1990 book “Hammer and Hoe,” a history of communism in Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

“It won several awards and accolades, including from a few conservative anti-Communist historians, because it is based on thorough research — something DeSantis’s people are not familiar with,” Kelley said.

— The state criticized the inclusion of a section about “Movement for Black Lives,” a coalition of more than 50 groups including Black Lives Matter and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. It says the group wants to abolish prisons and that it alleges there is a “war” against gay and transsexual Black people.

The state criticizes the section’s inclusion of a reading by Leslie Kay Jones, an assistant sociology professor at Rutgers University. It cites her quote, “Black people produce an unquantifiable amount of content for the same social media corporations that reproduce the white supremacist superstructure that suppresses us.”

Continued **Drug** Page 1

and people with government-funded Medicaid or Medicare coverage are not eligible. It will be available in 42 states and Washington, D.C. at launch.

Any program that gets low-cost generic drugs to more patients “is a good thing,” said Karen Van Nuys, an economist who studies drug pricing at the University of Southern California. But she added that she wasn’t sure how much of an impact RxPass will have.

She noted that the program is limited to Amazon Prime customers. Other options like the Mark Cuban CostPlus Drug Co. sell more generic drugs, many for under \$5.

“I just don’t know that it’s expanding access to a new set of patients,” Van Nuys said.

Still, the move could help the company take up some more space in the health care market, even

though it has not always been successful in its aim. Last year, the company shuttered its hybrid virtual, in-home care service called Amazon Care after it failed to get traction from employers. And Haven, a company Amazon created in collaboration with JPMorgan and Berkshire Hathaway to improve health costs, dissolved a year earlier than that.

Amazon has said its online drug store Amazon Pharmacy is a key part of its health care plan, along with primary care organization One Medical, which the online giant is seeking to acquire for \$3.9 billion. The Federal Trade Commission is investigating the proposed buyout.

In November, the company also said it would begin offering “Amazon Clinic,” a messaging service that connects patients with doctors for about two dozen common conditions, such as allergies and hair loss.

The Dallas Post Tribune’s Philosophy is to “Educate and Elevate!”

Fifth-grader Zihair Douglas wins the 2023 MLK Jr. Oratory final

BY THE HUB/Photos Credit: Dallas ISD

DALLAS — “We all have the power, in our own spheres of influence, to make a difference, to fulfill the hopes, prayers and dreams of Dr. King.” With these words, Zihair Douglas, a fifth-grade student at Thomas L. Marsalis STEAM Academy, ended the speech that would ultimately have him win the Dallas MLK Oratory final earlier this month. For this year’s competition, eight Dallas ISD students delivered original speeches addressing the topic: “What would Dr. King say to us today about hope for tomorrow?”

In his speech, Zihair included a sharp critique of current policy changes limiting voting access, immigration, abortion and education, lamenting that some elected officials use their power “to injure, deprive, and demean the very persons and communities they were elected to serve and support.”

He combined this with a call to action for people to “make intelligent decisions that will positively improve the lives of people from all cultures and backgrounds.” He concluded that Dr. King would be proud of a new generation of Americans

who “stand up, advocate and support what we think is right and fair.”

This year was Zihair’s second participation in the MLK oratory competition final, as he was also a finalist in last year’s competition. Sasha Greene, a TAG teacher at Marsalis STEAM Academy and Zihair’s sponsor for the competition, highlighted his dedication to getting his speech right.

“Over the past three months, we practiced maybe two or three times a day. He’s put a lot of work into memorizing his speech and saying it very well,” said Ms. Greene.

Alongside Zihair, Mohamad Mohamad, a fifth-grader at Elisha M. Pease Elementary, placed second, and Bria Hider, a fifth-grader at J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard, placed third.

For 31 years, the MLK oratory competition has inspired elementary students in Dallas and other cities to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy. By partaking in this event, students improve their writing and public speaking skills and, highlight their communities’ cultural diversity and talent.



The Bake- Hazelnut Praline Muffins

With these muffins, your house will smell like a pro baker’s shop!

By Paris Brown

Hello, and welcome back to The Bake! Today’s Bake is an easy muffin recipe that will impress at any party.

My hazelnut praline muffins may sound sophisticated but trust me – they’re delicious. The hazelnuts give them a nice, roasted, nutty flavor, and the vanilla and brown sugar provide them with a lot of depth.

Another great thing about these muffins is that they’re very customizable. You could add more nuts, chocolate chips, or anything else.

With these muffins, your house will smell like a pro baker’s shop!

Ingredients:
 1/2 cup butter
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 2 eggs
 1 tbsp vanilla
 2 cups flour
 3 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp baking soda
 1/2 tsp salt
 1 cup milk
 1 cup hazelnuts
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 2 tbsp water

Instructions:
 1. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees F and line a muffin tin.
 2. Place hazelnuts on a tray lined with parchment paper and bake until they’re fragrant and browned about 8-

10 minutes. Set aside.
 3. In a medium saucepan, add your water and sugar. Cook until it comes to a boil, then add hazelnuts. Stir until hazelnuts are fully coated. Pour hazelnuts back onto a parchment-lined tray. Let cool.
 4. Break hazelnuts into smaller pieces and blend in a food processor until smooth paste forms. Set aside.
 5. Mix flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder in a large bowl, then set aside.
 6. In a separate bowl, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Then mix eggs and vanilla until thoroughly combined.
 7. Alternate adding the flour and milk to the butter mixture. Once thoroughly combined, fill muffin tins with batter.
 8. Take about a tablespoon of hazelnut praline and swirl it through the batter.
 9. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until brown.
 10. Enjoy!!



Photo Credit/NNPA File

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THE MEANING OF A FLAG DRAPED COFFIN

Photo Credit/NNPA File

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic..

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and

glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you will see flags folded and now you will know why. Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of ' Liberty and Freedom.'