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# The Dallas Post Tribune

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ISSN # 0746-7303



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VOLUME 73 NUMBER 43

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

July 1 - 7, 2021

## JILL BIDEN TEAMS UP WITH NFL GREAT TO PUSH VACCINATIONS

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

DALLAS (AP) — Jill Biden played offense Tuesday in the fight against COVID-19, teaming up with an NFL Hall of Fame running back to encourage Texans to get vaccinated against the disease.

“Today, we are finally getting back the things that we lost. But as far as we’ve come, we’re not done yet,” the first lady said in brief remarks after she toured a pop-up vaccination clinic at Emmett J. Conrad High School.

She was accompanied by former Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, who used a sports metaphor to make the same point.

“We’re in the fourth quarter, and the game is far from over,” Smith said after the tour as they addressed a group of people who had just been vaccinated.

The first lady flew to Texas as part of President Joe Biden’s campaign to

vaccinate as many Americans as possible against COVID-19 in the face of growing concern about the spread of a new and more contagious strain of the coronavirus known as the delta variant.

Biden had set a goal of vaccinating 70% of adult Americans by Sunday’s July Fourth holiday, when he plans a White House celebration of the nation’s independence from the virus.

But while the administration has acknowledged it will fail to meet the president’s goal, the White House has said the president, first lady, vice president and her husband will continue to barnstorm the country encouraging holdouts to roll up their sleeves.

Nationwide, 66% of adults have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine according to

Continue **Jill** Page 4



First lady Jill Biden poses for a photo with Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, right, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, second from left, and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins as she arrives at Love Field Airport in Dallas, Tuesday, June 29, 2021. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, Pool).

## On border tour, Harris laments ‘infighting’ over immigration

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE



Vice President Kamala Harris holds a roundtable discussion with advocates from faith-based NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and shelter and legal service providers, during her visit to the Paso del Norte (PDN) Port of Entry in El Paso, Texas, Friday, June 25, 2021. The Paso del Norte Port of Entry is one of the country’s busiest pedestrian border crossings. It is located on the Paso Del Norte International Bridge. Thousands of people cross the border through the Port each day. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday used her first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border since taking office to call for an end to political “rhetoric” and “infighting” over immigration, an issue that Republicans have been eager to weaponize against

her. Immigration “cannot be reduced to a political issue,” Harris told reporters. “We’re talking about children, we’re talking about families, we’re talking about suffering. And our approach has to be thoughtful and effective.”

Harris’s trip came after months of criticism from Republicans and some in her own party over her absence and that of President Joe Biden from the border at a time when immigration officers have logged record numbers of encounters with migrants attempting to cross into the U.S.

Her half-day stop — in which she toured a Customs and Border Protection processing center and met with migrant children there, visited an intake center on the border and held a roundtable with local service providers — is unlikely to quell GOP efforts to use immigration as a political cudgel against the administration.

Harris defended both the timing of her visit and the choice of El Paso for the stop. Some critics had said the location is too far

Continue **Harris** Page 4

## BREAKING NEWS

### Bill Cosby’s sex assault conviction overturned by court.

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### July 4, Juneteenth and the meaning of national holidays

(Article Page 5)

FILE - In this July 4, 1966 file photo, the moon shines above the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts a scene from Iwo Jima, as fireworks burst over Washington, seen from the Virginia side of the Potomac River. The Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial are seen in the background. (AP Photo/Charles Tasnadi, File)



### Cardi B, Queen Latifah, Lil Nas X shine at BET Awards

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Infrastructure Waltz

*“My Day”*

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



By Dr. J. Ester Davis

**Infrastructure where? Who is your partner? Where do you start? How do you balance greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and clean energy? What else was on the agenda at the G7 club of rich nation’s conference in Stockholm? Are we considering regular trains, high speed rail, more triple-decked highways or helicopter drones? What investment will best navigate, regulate, inspire our plant life and reduce underlying conditions for its citizens.**

To make my point, let’s start with high speed trains, because they are definitely a major part of the infrastructure messaging in America. I think the

issue is not about bipartisanship. It is more about ‘my country tis of thee’. Around the world, Spain has the AVE, France has TGV, Japan has the Skinkansen and China operates more high speed trains than the rest-of-the world. The Shanghai Transrapid, is an *electric train* that reaches about 268 miles per hour. Russia’s first high speed rail service was between Moscow and Saint Petersburg in 2009. It traveled at 155 mph. Russia is planning international expansion designed to move more easily into Europe.

**In America** there are now seven (7) states on the dance floor. To date, **Chicago** is talking high speed rail, but Chicago may have forgotten that railroads need land. **California** Sacramento just reached an agreement to restore ‘nearly one billion in funding for a Los Angeles-to-San Francisco Bullet Train’, which the Trump administration revoked in 2019. Amtrak Systems, **Washington,**

**D.C.,** now 40 years old with the tunnel under the Hudson River, is seeking a new tunnel, upgraded rail with lots of stops. **Florida** has embarked upon a private passenger train penned the Brightline and **Texas,** another private venture, Texas Partners LLC, though a bit behind, is making serious progress with the 90 minute trip from Dallas to Houston.

Several years ago on one of my world mission trips, a video was presented about the Behring Strait Bridge Tunnel that kept me in “research mode” for days. The one thought I was most fascinated with was the hyped-proposed idea of driving your car ‘around-the-world’ using the Behring Strait Bridge. The future of rail through this tunnel ‘Alaska-to-Chukotka’ had visionary producers hiring scriptwriters.

This “mega engineering” project had a name, the Trans-Siberian Alaska Railroad making the global connection. There have been several other names

and attempts etching to tame *this patch of forbidden earth* belonging to the United States and Russia. You do have to wonder will the “infrastructure minded” and the image that other countries have set for their communities, allow the ‘dance’ to grow global seeds.

America’s history is actually quite unbelievable. Yes, we have ills, but I believe in progress which aligns with jobs and purpose. My vote is for high speed rails across our country and beyond. Since we have worn out our bridges and highways in existence since World War II, let’s have a love affair with the high speed rail the next 50 years. It will happen. If you fail to believe this, I need only remind you of the “transfer of power” from the horse and buggy pony express to the “iron horse”, trained pigeons to passenger airplanes, full bodied corsets-to-push up bras, telephone booths-to-internet.

[Esterdavis2000@gmail.com](mailto:Esterdavis2000@gmail.com)

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## Brendon Mason Receives Teen Graffiti’s Book Scholarship



(Dallas, TX – June 24, 2021) – Brendon Mason of Rowlett, TX is the recipient of this year’s Teen Graffiti Book Scholarship for his outstanding commitment to education and community service. Mason will receive a \$500.00 Book Scholarship.

Brendon Mason is a 2021 graduate of Naaman Forest High School, and he will be attending Prairie

View A&M University in the fall majoring in Agriculture. Brendon is the son of Sharon Robinson-Garrett of Rowlett, TX.

Teen Graffiti’s Education Scholarship was founded on the principle that today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders. We believe that in order for youth to become strong leaders they must be comfortable with who they are,

be well-rounded, possess a strong desire to make a difference in their community, and be a positive influence for others. We further believe that involvement in community service and strong academics should be both encouraged and rewarded. With this in mind, through our scholarship, we provide financial assistance to graduating seniors who challenge themselves to be their best and reward them for their efforts. These scholarships are made possible through funds raised from annual fundraisers, other Teen Graffiti/Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. events, and private and individual contributions.

Teens Reaching Teens, Incorporated, is a 501 c3 organization whose mission is to provide quality community-based programs and services that motivate and empower

teens to develop and enhance their educational, social, leadership, and professional development skills.

Students interested in applying for Teen Graffiti’s 2022 Education Scholarships can review eligibility requirements, download application forms, and explore Teen Graffiti’s website at <http://www.teengraffiti.com> or by writing to Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.; c/o Teen Graffiti’s Education Scholarship; P.O. Box 452721; Garland, Texas 75045-2721.

For additional information about Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. (<http://www.teensreachingteens.org>); Teen Graffiti Magazine (<http://www.teengraffiti.com>) contact Sharon Jones-Scaife, Executive Director at 972-442-6000 or email [sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org](mailto:sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org).

“So, let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look over not only ourselves, but each other.”

**President Barack Obama**

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P. 214-371-2024



**Pastor Daryl R. Carter**

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



**The Mount Moriah**  
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www.mountmoriahdallas.org

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**Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.**

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**Email address**  
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**Sammie Berry**  
Minister

**Calendar of Events**  
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**Tuesday Song Practice**  
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**Wednesday Bible Class**  
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## "A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

St. JOHN 17: 6-12

### THE REMARKABLE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF CHRIST PART II

BY REV. JOHNNY CALVIN SMITH

As we continue to study the wonders of Christ's intercessory prayer, let's continue to view Christ's prayer from three perspectives: in St. John 17:1-5, He prayed for Himself; in St. John 17:6-19, He prayed for the eleven disciples yet alive; and in St. John 17:20-26, He prayed for those who should believe; that is, He was praying for us in this dispensation of grace. Isn't it comforting to

know that the Lord had your interest in mind, wanting even that you be saved! Salvation is a free gift from God, appropriated by anyone who would believe in Christ as Saviour, for St. John 3:36 says: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting (eternal) life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

In completing the first

section (St. John 17:1-5), we discovered that Christ was praying for Himself, praying for His own glorification, to the end that the Father would be glorified. His prayer for His glorification was vitally connected to His union with His Father: "that the Father be glorified" (St. John 17: 1, 5). As one meditates on the remarkable prayer of our blessed Saviour, one arresting thought should be promi-

nent: "the glory of the Father is the paramount consideration of Christ from beginning to the end." In Christ's petition for His own (St. John 17:6), He declared that He had manifested the Father's name - thus, He had disclosed the Father's character and remarkable perfections. Christ perfectly revealed God to men, for St. John 1:18 says: "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

Yes, when you saw Jesus incarnate, you were looking at the declaration of who God is! Certainly, Christ had revealed the absolute perfections of

His Father in His immaculate and perfect life, wondrous miracles and superb teachings. Christ went on to utter in His prayer that the disciples were given to Him, and that the disciples had kept the Word.

What a marvelous commendable remark that was made - "that the disciples had continued in the word." The essence of true discipleship is that one continues in the word (St. John 8:31). The eleven disciples were praised by Christ for responding to the message of the gospel; moreover, these disciples knew that they were a gift from the Father (v. 7). Thus, the disciples had received God's message of grace

through Christ and they had a firm belief that Jesus came as a missionary gift from heaven (v. 8). It is indeed a marvel to contemplate that the Lord would pray for the little flock of eleven disciples in view of all their human weaknesses (v. 9-12). Christ's consuming passion in this prayer was that the disciples would be preserved and that they might be unified as the Father and the Son were (v. 11). On a solemn and sad note, Judas Iscariot was appointed as a disciple, and later as an apostle; however, he was never a believer (St. John 13:30).

May God Bless!

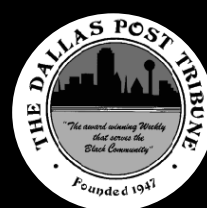


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Continued **Harris** Page 1

removed from the epicenter of border crossings creating a strain on federal resources. She told reporters after landing in El Paso that she had said in March that she would come to the border and it was "not a new plan."

And she said the choice of El Paso was meant to underscore a shift to a more humane approach to immigration policy by the Biden administration after the hardline stance of former President Donald Trump.

"It is here in El Paso that the previous administration's child separation policy was unveiled," she said. She also noted Trump's "remain in Mexico" policy, which forced asylum seekers to wait on the other side of the border for their claims to be adjudicated.

"We have seen the disaster that resulted from that here in El Paso," she said.

Harris visited the region with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Texas Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar and Illinois Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, a prominent Democratic voice on immigration reform. Both Mayorkas and Escobar said they invited Harris specifically to the area, and Mayorkas was quick to emphasize that border security is in his portfolio, not the vice president's.

But Republicans faulted Harris for a trip that they dismissed as little more than a photo session. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a conservative Republican and leading administration critic on immigration, charged that Biden's policies "opened the floodgates to human smugglers and drug cartels."

While Cruz said he was glad Harris had visited, "if the vice president came to Texas without a concrete

plan to secure our border and is unwilling to reverse her administration's failed immigration policies that caused the crisis, then her visit is nothing short of a glorified photo-op."

Trump said on Friday in an interview with the conservative outlet Newsmax that "I think she should go to the real part of the border, not a part of the border that's seldom violated."

Harris has borne the brunt of attacks from Republicans over immigration since Biden assigned her to lead the administration's efforts to address the root causes of migration to the U.S. from countries like Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. She's emphasized that her focus is on improving conditions for residents of those countries through economic and humanitarian aid, to encourage them to stay home rather than make the journey to the U.S..

Republicans have tried to paint the administration as indifferent to border security, seeking to revive a potent political weapon against Democrats for the 2022 midterm elections. Trump plans to visit the area less than a week after Harris, and he's certain to seize on her trip to keep driving the GOP narrative.

Other administration officials have made multiple visits to the border, but the absence of Biden and Harris had left some Democrats worried that damage already has been done. There's concern that the Biden administration has ceded the border security debate to Republicans.

"The administration is making Democrats look weak," said Texas Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar in an interview with The Associated Press. "I've heard, from Democrats and Republicans in my area, what the heck is going on with this administration?"

Continued **Jill** Page 1

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Texas, just under 50% of people ages 12 and older — the demographic being served at the Dallas high school's clinic — have been fully protected against the disease caused by the coronavirus, according to state COVID-19 data on the CDC's website.

In her remarks, the first lady said just 40% of Texans are fully vaccinated. It was not immediately clear whether she was referring to all Texans or a

specific age grouping.

"It's just not enough, which is why I wanted to come here today," Jill Biden said, stressing that the vaccines in use are safe, effective and free.

The Dallas clinic is open to students 12 years and older, school staff, parents and anyone from the broader Dallas community. The Dallas Independent School District is hosting community vaccine clinics at different high schools daily this week.

Parkland Health & Hospital System is administering the Pfizer vaccine,

## Bill Cosby's sex assault conviction overturned by court

By **MARYCLAIRE DALE**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pennsylvania's highest court threw out Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction and opened the way for his immediate release from prison Wednesday in a stunning reversal of fortune for the comedian once known as "America's Dad," ruling that the prosecutor who brought the case was bound by his predecessor's agreement not to charge Cosby.

Cosby, 83, has served more than two years of a three- to 10-year sentence after being found guilty of drugging and violating Temple University sports administrator Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era.

Cosby was arrested in 2015, when a district attorney armed with newly unsealed evidence — the comic's damaging deposition testimony in a lawsuit brought by Constand — brought charges against him days before the 12-year statute of limitations ran out.

But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court said that District Attorney Kevin Steele, who made the decision to arrest Cosby, was obligated to stand by his predecessor's promise not to charge Cosby. There was no evidence that promise was ever put in writing.

Justice David Wecht, writing for a split court, said Cosby had relied on the former prosecutor's decision not to charge him when the comedian later gave his potentially incriminating testimony in the Constand's civil case.

The court said that overturning the conviction, and barring any further prosecution, "is the only remedy that comports with society's reasonable expectations of its elected prosecutors and our criminal justice system." A Cosby spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment. Nor did a Steele representative, Constand or her lawyer.

The trial judge allowed five other accusers to testify at the trial about their experiences with Cosby in the 1980s to establish what

prosecutors said was a pattern of behavior on his part.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices voiced concern not just about sex assault cases, but what they saw as the judiciary's increasing tendency to allow testimony that crosses the line into character attacks. The law allows the testimony only in limited cases, including to show a crime pattern so specific it serves to identify the perpetrator.

But the court declined to say whether five other accusers should have been allowed to testify, considering it moot given their ruling on Cosby's claim that he should not have been prosecuted in the first place.

In New York, the judge presiding over last year's trial of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, whose case had sparked the explosion of the #MeToo movement in 2017, let four other accusers testify. Weinstein was convicted and sentenced to 23 years in prison. He is now facing separate charges in California.

In May, Cosby was denied paroled after refusing to participate in sex offender programs behind bars. He has long said he would resist the treatment programs and refuse to acknowledge wrongdoing even if it means serving the full 10-year sentence.

Prosecutors said Cosby repeatedly used his fame and "family man" persona to manipulate young women, holding himself out as a mentor before betraying them.

Cosby, a groundbreaking Black actor who grew up in public housing in Philadelphia, made a fortune estimated at \$400 million during his 50 years in the entertainment industry. His trademark clean comedy fueled popular TV shows, books and standup acts.

He fell from favor in his later years as he lectured the Black community about family values, but was attempting a comeback when he was arrested.

The AP does not typically identify sexual assault victims without their permission, which Constand has granted.

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	1			3	4		2
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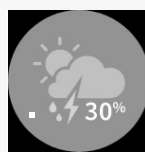
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## SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, July 1

H - 88°  
L - 76°

Friday, July 2

H - 83°  
L - 74°

Saturday, July 3

H - 84°  
L - 72°

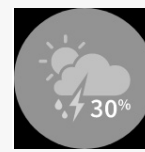
Sunday, July 4

H - 85°  
L - 72°

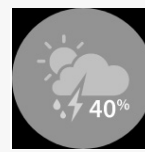
Monday, July 5

H - 86°  
L - 73°

Tuesday, July 6

H - 86°  
L - 75°

Wednesday, July 7

H - 86°  
L - 75°

## Graduating senior excelled academically, athletically and at motherhood

BY JAVIER GIRIBET-VARGAS



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

Kaiyah Jones spent her senior year excelling academically, at work, at track and at motherhood.

Despite working past midnight on a regular basis, the recent W.T. White graduate finished her school year with strong grades and as an acclaimed track-star who earned an athletic scholarship.

"One of my biggest track accomplishments was running a lap (400 meters) in under a minute," she said. "I was able to finish school, work, go to practice early in the mornings, and still make good grades and do everything right. I had a baby last year and still participated in Cross Country, came to practices, went to every meet and graduated."

Jones ran with the team that qualified for regionals in the 4 x 200 and was part of the Longhorn squad that

won District Champions in the 4 x 400 (two track competitions in which teams of four athletes run a relay race where each runner completes 200 meters or 400 meters, depending on the event). Individually, she placed as a district finalist in the 800 meter-race and is a two-time regional qualifier in the 400-meter dash.

Coach Michael Martin has taught physical education at W.T. White for 17 years and has led the Longhorn Girls Track team for the last 13 years. When he met Jones during her sophomore year, he was amazed by her attitude of relentless self-improvement. He noticed that she had a great work ethic and a natural gift of leadership.

"She's a nice kid. We never gave up on her and she never gave up on us," Martin said. "She practices

hard and is one of the athletes who gets her teammates to practice. And as a student, she did what she was supposed to do, took charge of a tough situation and did the best she could. Her efforts paid through, because she ended up getting an athletic scholarship."

Jones relentlessly kept her grades up, worked long hours into the night and continued to support her team, even throughout her pregnancy and after giving birth to her daughter Legacy in July 2020.

"I was working at a movie theater, and I was always the night person," she said. "My shift would start almost immediately after leaving school, and sometimes I wouldn't get out until 2 a.m., depending on when the last movie ended. I'd go to practice for

Track and Cross Country the next day at 7 a.m., every day, and do it all over again."

**A second chance to shine**

Three months into her pregnancy, Jones realized that she wasn't able to run as well she normally could. She had not told anyone at school that she was an expecting mother, and she knew that having a baby meant giving up athletics for a couple of months.

"It was really hard to stop running," she said. "I loved working out, I loved practicing with my friends and being part of the team, so much. I didn't want to miss out on anything."

She gave up the sport until after Legacy was born. And while she wasn't able to continue breaking her personal records and pushing her endurance in

the 400-meter track, her coach found another area where she could continue supporting her team and excelling.

Jones became the team manager, and helped her teammates anywhere she could, from getting water for the freshmen improve their times. After Legacy was born, Jones was back on her feet, with her running shoes on and one goal in mind: graduating and going to college.

"When she told us she was pregnant, we embraced it. Her family, her teachers and I did what we had to do to get her through, and she did the same. I told her: 'We're going to get you through this, but we're not going to let you quit,'" Martin said. "There was a lot happening at once, especially for her at 18

years old. There were ups and downs, and a lot of emotions. But we worked it out, and we all agreed to get this young lady to the next level, because she had the talent and she persevered."

Jones wants to become a police officer and is set to start college — with a partial athletic scholarship — at the University of Southwest in New Mexico in the Fall of 2021. She will major in Criminal Justice and run for the Mustangs' women track and field team.

"Something that I've learned at W.T. White and being part of the Longhorns is that giving up is a mental thing," she said. "If you give up mentally, then you're going to give up in every other aspect of your life. And the only person who can make you quit mentally is yourself."

## July 4, Juneteenth and the meaning of national holidays

By HILLEL ITALI  
AP Photo/CharesTasnadi, File

NEW YORK (AP) — On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress formally endorsed the Declaration of Independence. Celebrations began within days: parades and public readings, bonfires and candles and the firing of 13 musket rounds, one for each of the original states.

Nearly a century passed before the country officially named its founding a holiday.

With the recent passage of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, the country now has 12 federal holidays. Many are fixtures in the American calendar, but their presence isn't only a story of continuity. They reflect how the U.S. has evolved — from an affiliation of states with a rela-

tively small federal government to a more centralized nation.

Statewide and local gatherings for Independence Day and other holidays are as old as the country itself. But the first round of federal holidays, identified as such because federal employees (initially only federal employees in Washington, D.C.) were given the day off, was only signed into law in 1870, by President Ulysses S. Grant, five years after the Civil War ended.

"The Civil War consolidated national power in all sorts of ways, and national holidays are an illustration of that," says the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Eric Foner. "There were many, many firsts after the Civil War."

Juneteenth and other federal holidays have passed

with substantial majorities in Congress, suggesting broad, bipartisan consensus. The first holidays, notes Grant biographer Ron Chernow, were the safest ones at the time — New Year's Day, Independence Day.

"The first five federal holidays ... attempted to restore common ground between North and South," Chernow says. "Both sides in the Civil War claimed to have fought in the spirit of the American Revolution. It was therefore easy for both sides to honor Washington's birthday and Independence Day."

Among national holidays, July 4 stands as the most complex and debated, a reflection of the questions and contradictions about the country's origins and about the Declaration of Independence itself.

## Cardi B, Queen Latifah, Lil Nas X shine at BET Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU  
Photo Credit/Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Cardi B's "WAP" had new meaning at the BET Awards: winning and pregnant.

The Grammy-winning star debuted her baby bump during a live performance Sunday alongside husband Offset as well as Quavo and Takeoff of Migos. She also won video of the year for her Megan Thee Stallion-assisted No. 1 hit "WAP."

Cardi B didn't stay to accept the honor at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, but Megan Thee Stallion rushed to the stage to pick up the award, forgetting to thank Cardi during her speech.

But the "Savage" rapper made up for it when she won best female hip-hop artist moments later.

"I really forgot to say 'thank you Cardi' for even putting me on 'WAP'

because it makes me feel so good to be acknowledged by one of my peers, who I think so highly of," said Megan Thee Stallion, who was the big winner of the night with four trophies. "I think so highly of all the women who was nominated in this category."

Along with celebrating female artists, the BET Awards also highlighted gay pride with a seductive performance by Lil Nas X and Queen Latifah, who thanked her reported partner and son when she accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award.

As she rattled off thank you's, she said: "Ebony, my love, Rebel, my love." The 51-year-old ended with: "Peace! Happy pride!"

Queen Latifah was honored for her illustrious career as a Grammy-winning rap-

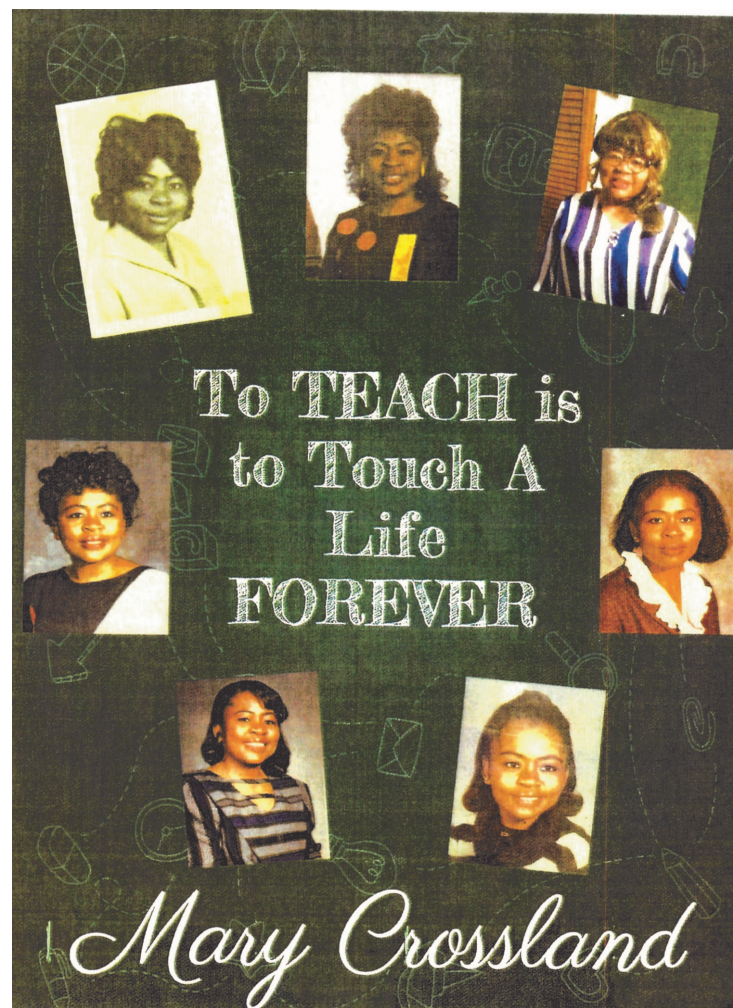
per, a Golden Globe-winning actor and an Emmy-winning TV producer. Rapsody and Monie Love kicked off the tribute with a performance of "Ladies First," which was followed by Lil Kim and MC Lyte rapping the classic "U.N.I.T.Y."

Mothers were also saluted during the three-hour-plus show: Queen Latifah, who attended with her father, held a photo of her mother onstage; Megan Thee Stallion remembered her mother, who died in 2019, during her speech: "She can't be here with me today but I still think about her everyday and she is the reason why I keep going." And Jazmine Sullivan — who won album of the year for her critically acclaimed EP "Heaux Tales" — attended the show with her mother, who is battling cancer.

“To TEACH is to Touch A Life FOREVER”

# Mary Campbell Crossland

## Retires from Dallas ISD after 51 years of service



Teacher Retirement Program Cover

Mary Helen Campbell Crossland was born and raised on a small farm in the Piney Woods of New Boston, Texas. She is the 9<sup>th</sup> of ten children born to sharecroppers in Bowie County. This rural region wasn't known for much of anything except hard work, church, and more hard work. She began working in the fields when she was six years old. Her work ethic was formed at her beloved mother's knees as she helped her till, sow, tend, and harvest her meager crops.

Highway 8 meandered its way south of town until it intersected U. S. Highway 67. Along this route, obstacles and hard times were to be endured with promises of a better day ahead.

As she reflected on her adventure as a teacher, she recalled that the seed of promise was sown early during her formative years. It germinated in the rich soil of high expectancy from her nuclear family; was prayerfully nurtured by the encouragement of her "village"; and indoctrinated with a sense of urgency by her teachers. She said, "They wanted us to be as

prepared as we could be... "Cause a change was gonna come."

Mary loved to read and this quest led her to sink her roots of inquiry into the fertile soil of knowledge and seek the refreshing water of enlightenment that soothes those who thirst. These words of wisdom bidden her to accept support for her fragile stem of security. She could thereby stand tall and reach upward toward the brilliant rays of the sun of success that provides nourishment for the soul. The resulting fruit was a teacher who sowed her seeds believing the inherent promise of all seeds: "I'll grow and reproduce!"

School meant everything to Mary: She admired her teachers and looked forward to participating in Interscholastic League competitions (spelling, typing, writing, orations, debating, etc.) Missing school was rare, even though hunger in class was her constant companion.

By the time Mary reached high school, things academic occupied most of her time and energy. She was chosen valedictorian of her class, thereby earning a 4-year scholarship to Prairie View A&M College. Mary was a member of the National Honor Society, made the Dean's List every semester, and graduated with honor. After graduation, she turned down a fellowship to study reading in New York. All of Prairie View's graduates were encouraged to obtain at least a Master's Degree, attend workshops, and do self-study. Mary received a

Master of Education Degree in 1977.

Her community involvement centered mostly around her church, but flowed out into the community. She consistently makes philanthropic financial donations to organizations local and nationwide.

Many accomplishments have made her journey worthwhile. Her proudest achievement is her beloved, analytical daughter, Dawn Felice Crossland.



Mary Campbell Crossland (L) and Dawn Crossland (daughter).

## Strong Family Celebrates Juneteenth at the Dallas Arboretum After Pandemic Cancels Two Family Reunions

Dallas, TX – About 80 members of the **Strong family** and friends celebrated **Juneteenth** at the **Dallas Arboretum** on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Strong family members are descendants of Civil War-era enslaved persons who were freed by conscientious objectors. The Strong family took a group photo to mark the occasion then spent the day viewing the 100 exquisite pieces from the Zimbabwean **ZimSculpt** collection displayed throughout the gardens while picnicking, and enjoying the Children's Adventure area.

The pandemic canceled the 2020 and the 2021 Strong family reunions held on Strong family property in Kilgore, Texas, for 57 years. "This meeting on Juneteenth was like a mini-reunion for our family. Plus, this being the first observance of the national holiday made it a historic occasion for us to observe," said **Zenetta Strong Drew**, Executive Director of **Dallas Black Dance Theatre**. **President Joe Biden** signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day into law Thursday, June 17, 2021. Juneteenth became a federal holiday observed on Friday this year, since June 19 fell on a Saturday.

The Strong family members are descendants of **Peter and Rebecca Strong**, who were enslaved in Georgia as the Civil War was heating up. Three white couples from Coweta County, Georgia, who were conscientious objectors, decided to move from the plantation and agreed to free the slaves they took with them when they reached safety. Peter and Rebecca were among the enslaved who were freed in East Texas, where they set-

led.

A typical Strong family reunion includes 250 people from across the country. The three-day reunion consists of a banquet, picnic with fish fry and barbeque, and church service. The Strong family has made 23 annual scholarship awards to Sabine High School students in Gladewater, Texas, during the banquet.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre performed as headline artists for the 2000 Harare International Festival of the Arts in Harare, Zimbabwe (Africa), and Drew is excited to share the Zimbabwean art with her family.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is celebrating its 45th anniversary. For more information visit [www.DBDDT.com](http://www.DBDDT.com).

**ABOUT THE ZIM-SCULPT EXHIBIT:** The Dallas Arboretum presents the return of the international blockbuster exhibit **ZimSculpt**, a world-renowned collection of hand-selected, modern Zimbabwean stone sculptures. As the signature event of Summer of Sculpture, **ZimSculpt** runs through August 8.

**ZimSculpt** features the talent of several contemporary Zimbabwean artists with more than 100 hand-selected, exquisite sculptures artfully displayed throughout the garden. These contemporary pieces, created by the Shona people of Zimbabwe, are carved from various types of serpentine and semi-precious stone, often weighing tons, and can be as large as seven feet tall. **ZimSculpt** is passionate about promoting the work of some of the finest Zimbabwean sculptors. Therefore, as part of the

exhibit, guests are welcome to watch artists and sculptors **Passmore Mupindiko** and **Brighton Layson** demonstrate their artistry on select days as they carve statues with chisels, hammers, files and sandpaper.

**ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE:** **Ann Williams Young** took over the helm as Artistic Director in 2018 after starting at the company as a dancer in 1994. **Zenetta S. Drew** has led the administrative side of the company since 1987 as Executive Director.

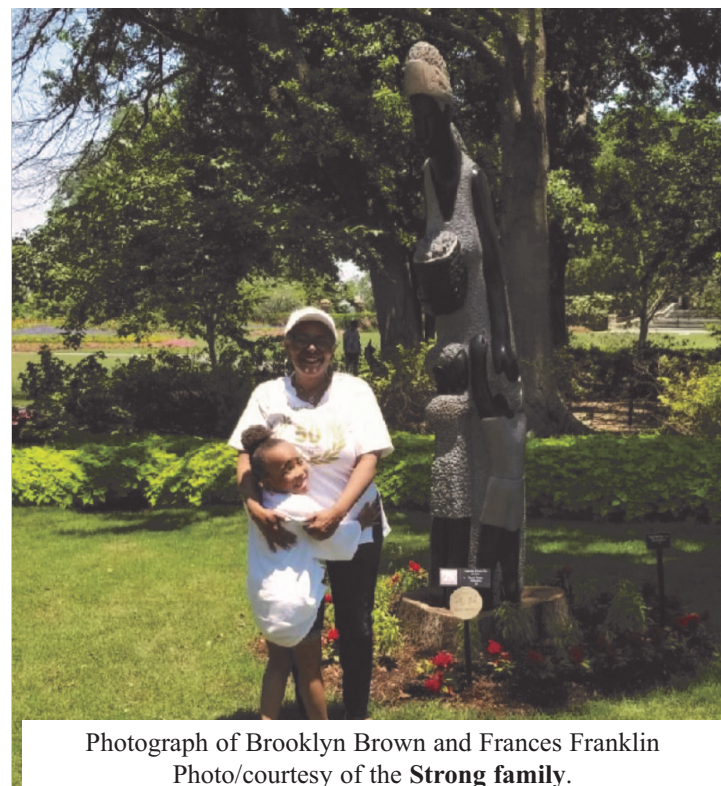
The mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. The virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 5 million arts patrons across 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.



Strong family photograph by Lawrence Mann Photography



Photograph of Zenetta Strong Drew and Passmore Mupindiko, Dallas Arboretum onsite sculptor Photo/courtesy of the Strong family.



Photograph of Brooklyn Brown and Frances Franklin Photo/courtesy of the Strong family.



Photograph of Lee Harmon Photo/courtesy of the Strong family.