

I gave a little blood on that bridge in Selma, Alabama for the right to Vote, I am not going to stand by and let the Supreme Court take the right to Vote away from us.

- John Lewis -



The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

July 15 - 21, 2021

African American Bee Champ Makes History With Flair

By BEN NUCKOLS

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Zaila Avant-garde understood the significance of what she was doing as she stood on the Scripps National Spelling Bee stage, peppering pronouncer Jacques Bailly with questions about Greek and Latin roots.

Zaila knew she would be the first African American winner of the bee. She knew Black kids around the country were watching Thursday night's ESPN2 telecast, waiting to be inspired and hoping to follow in the footsteps of someone who looked like them. She even thought of MacNolia Cox, who in 1936 became the first Black finalist at the bee and wasn't allowed to stay in the same hotel as the rest of the spellers.

But she never let the moment become too big for her, and when she heard what turned out to be her winning word — "Murraya," a genus of tropical Asiatic and Australian trees — she beamed with confidence. It was over.



Zaila Avant-garde, 14, from Harvey, Louisiana celebrates after winning the finals of the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee at Disney World Thursday, July 8, 2021, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

Continue **Zaila** Page 2



Supporters gather on the street as Democrats from the Texas Legislature arrive by bus to board a private plane headed for Washington, D.C., Monday, July 12, 2021, in Austin, Texas. By leaving, Democrats again deny the GOP majority a quorum to pass bills, barely a month after their walkout thwarted the first push for sweeping new voting restrictions in Texas. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Texas Democrats leave state to try to stop GOP voting bill

By PAUL J. WEBER and WILL WEISSERT

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrats in the Texas Legislature bolted Monday for Washington, and said they were ready to remain there for weeks in a second revolt against a GOP overhaul of election laws, forcing a dramatic new showdown over voting rights in America.

Private planes carrying more than

50 Democrats left Austin for Dulles International Airport midafternoon, skipping town just days before the Texas House of Representatives was expected to give early approval to sweeping new voting restrictions in a special legislative session. The numbers meant the House would not have enough lawmakers in atten-

dance to conduct business and could not, at least for now, vote on the bill.

The cross-country exodus was the second time that Democratic lawmakers have staged a walkout on the voting overhaul, a measure of their fierce opposition to proposals

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Texas Democrats dig in after exodus; GOP threatens arrest
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Houston-area COVID-19 outbreak should be a wake-up call for Texans
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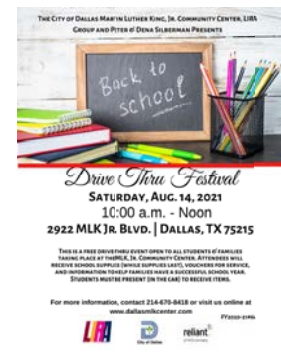
Moss vows with culture show honoring Black inventors
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Dallas Works putting hundreds of young people to work
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Back to School Drive Thru Festival
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Cedric the Entertainer to host live Emmy Awards ceremony
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Success Secrets of Black Millionaires

The Essential Book Review

My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. J. Ester Davis
Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

On Page 108, Millionaire Lesson No. 3 ends with. . . *‘The poor keep score by cars and clothes. The middle class keep score by degrees and titles. But the wealthy keep score by their bank accounts.’*

On Page 183, under the Fifth Law of Wealth, Dennis Kimbro writes a quote from Andrew Young: *“Dr. King and I integrated the lunch counters, but we never integrated the dollar. And to live in a system of free enterprise and yet not to understand the rules of free enterprise, that’s the definition of slavery.”*

On Page 190, *“Are these crazy times? You bet. So*

stop thinking about how crazy the times are and start thinking about what the crazy times demand”.

This entire concept of millionaires and count-downing to million status in a conference and workshop, is the brainchild of **Cedric Brown, Kingdom Concepts.** Headlining speakers are Tim Brown, NFL great, and Les Brown, the renown motivational speaker.

Cedric, a native Texan, new offices in eloquent style in a place blocks from where he grew up in Hamilton Park. While preparing for the wealth conference duly entitled “TRUSTUP: Business Building Asset Protection Conference and Workshop, Cedric casually handed me a book entitled, **“The Wealth Choice, Success Secrets of Black Millionaires”** by **Dennis Kimbro**, who as I am writing this article is on his way to Dallas for this conference. The book was to get me prepared for the live conference Friday night, July 16, interview.

But I rarely read a book if I am doing the interview. Upon receipt of this book, the anticipation was too loud to ignore, so I stopped for lunch and commenced reading. Fascinating!!! The time and research poured into this masterful script was evident. Insight and grit were felt on every page. It was extremely “laborious” to put down. Being an impatient personality, I did not want to listen to endless voice mail prompts. On the way home, I decided to stop at a large bookstore in the Northpark area to pick up more copies of the book. It was closing time at this bookstore and of course, I was reminded of same when I entered. I told the employee I was not there to browse. I knew exactly what I wanted. So, up the stairs I traveled to the Business Motivation Section. Acknowledging my request, the saleslady disappeared behind shelves and returned with a look of wondered disappointment. She had one book! One book? Yes,

one book left. . .the last book, with no information on arrival of more. We have indeed many books on wealth, the Millionaire Next Door, Rich Dad Poor Dad, The Science of Getting Rich, Total Money Makeover, new and trending money books, bitcoin rising, as detailed in my earlier article “The HOT Bitcoin ATM”, but for African Americans these books are rare as a ‘best seller’ showcasing a black male image on the cover in a pinstriped suit.

Dennis Kimbro acknowledges ‘wealth-of-knowledge’, by offering this book for purchase in bulk for promotional, educational or business use. You can contact bookstores, Amazon or email at [Macmillan Special Markets@macmillan.com](mailto:MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com).

The wealth conference starts **Friday, July 16, 2021.** Call me 214.376.9000 for schedule and immediate details. **Office seminars and workshops will continue throughout the year.**

Thank you Cedric.

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Continued **Zaila** Page 1

Declared the champion, Zaila jumped and twirled with joy, only flinching in surprise when confetti was shot onto the stage.

“I was pretty relaxed on the subject of Murraya and pretty much any other word I got,” Zaila said.

The only previous Black champion was also the only international winner: Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998. The bee, however, has still been a showcase for spellers of color over the past two decades, with kids of South Asian descent dominating the competition. Zaila’s win breaks a streak of at least one Indian-American champion every year since 2008.

Zaila has other priorities, which perhaps explains how she came to dominate this year’s bee. The 14-year-old from Harvey, Louisiana, is a basketball prodigy who owns three Guinness world records for dribbling multiple balls simultaneously and hopes to one day play in the WNBA or even coach in the NBA. She described spelling as a side hobby, even though she routinely practiced for seven hours a day.

“I kind of thought I would never be into spelling again, but I’m also happy that I’m going to make a clean break from it,” Zaila said. “I can go out, like my Guinness world records, just leave it

right there, and walk off.”

Many of top Scripps spellers start competing as young as kindergarten. Zaila only started a few years ago, after her father, Jawara Spacetime, watched the bee on TV and realized his daughter’s affinity for doing complicated math in her head could translate well to spelling. She progressed quickly enough to make it to nationals in 2019 but bowed out in the preliminary rounds.

That’s when she started to take it more seriously and began working with a private coach, Cole Shafer-Ray, a 20-year-old Yale student and the 2015 Scripps runner-up.

“Usually to be as good as Zaila, you have to be well-connected in the spelling community. You have to have been doing it for many years,” Shafer-Ray said. “It was like a mystery, like, ‘Is this person even real?’”

Shafer-Ray quickly realized his pupil had extraordinary gifts.

“She really just had a much different approach than any speller I’ve ever seen. She basically knew the definition of every word that we did, like pretty much verbatim,” he said. “She knew, not just the word but the story behind the word, why every letter had to be that letter and couldn’t be anything else.”

Sometimes she knew

more than she let on. Part of her strategy, she said, was to ask about roots that weren’t part of the word she was given, just to eliminate them from consideration.

Only one word gave her trouble: “nepeta,” a genus of mints, and she jumped even higher when she got that one right than she did when she took the trophy.

“I’ve always struggled with that word. I’ve heard it a lot of times. I don’t know, there’s just some words, for a speller, I just get them and I can’t get them right,” she said. “I even knew it was a genus of plants. I know what you are and I can’t get you.”

Zaila — her dad gave her the last name Avant-garde in tribute to jazz musician John Coltrane — is a singular champion of a most unusual bee, the first in more than 25 months. Last year’s bee was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, and this one was thoroughly modified to minimize risk to kids and their families.

Most of the bee was held virtually, and only the 11 finalists got to compete in person, in a small portion of a cavernous arena at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Florida that also hosted the NBA playoff bubble last year. The in-person crowd was limited to spellers’ immediate family, Scripps staff, selected media — and first lady Jill Biden, who spoke to the spellers

and stayed to watch.

Sometimes it was so quiet in the arena that the only sound was the unamplified voice of ESPN host Kevin Negandhi as he spoke into a TV microphone.

The format of the bee, too, underwent an overhaul after the 2019 competition ended in an eight-way tie. Scripps’ word list was no match for the top spellers that year, but this year, five of the 11 finalists were eliminated in the first onstage round. Then came the new wrinkle of this year’s bee: multiple-choice vocabulary questions. All six remaining spellers got those right.

Zaila won efficiently enough — the bee was over in less than two hours — that another innovation, a lightning-round tiebreaker, wasn’t necessary.

She will take home more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes. The runner-up was Chaitra Thummala, a 12-year-old from Frisco, Texas, and another student of Shafer-Ray. She has two years of eligibility remaining and instantly becomes one of next year’s favorites. Bhavana Madini, a 13-year-old from Plainview, New York, finished third and also could be back.

“Zaila deserved it. She’s always been better than me,” Chaitra said. “I could review a lot more words. I could get a stronger work ethic.”

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“A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN”

St. JOHN 17: 20 - 26

THE REMARKABLE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF CHRIST

PART IV

BY REV. JOHNNY CALVIN SMITH

We come to the close of Christ's marvelous intercessory prayer for His own. Throughout Christ's prayer, one can sense His tender concern for the spiritual welfare of His own. It is indeed a blessing to know that our Lord is praying for us – displaying His great and undying love for us as we travel among so much evil.

Prior to verse 20, Christ had been praying for His own glorification (17:1-5), the preservation and sanctification of the eleven disciples (St. John 17:6-19), but now, in verse 20, we find Him praying even for all Christians. What a marvelous prayer that Christ prays, praying for us before we came into being! Every born again believer can utter – “Christ prayed for me and is praying for me.”

In verse 21, Christ prayed for the unity of believers to the end that the believers' lives would reflect the Father's will. Such a unity will result in those in the world believing that the Father sent the Son. In verses 22-23, our Lord continues to pray for the unification of the believers, for the exhibition of unity in the world between believers and with God, will result in: (a) the world knowing that Christ was commissioned by the Father (v. 23) and (b) that the world might sense God's awesome love for believers – a love that truly is unique (v. 26).

As Christ continues to unfold this marvelous prayer, it is wonderful to even contemplate that God's Son is praying for our association with Him in verse 24, for He said: “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am: that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me before the foundation of the world.”

In verse 25-26, our Lord's prayer concludes by Jesus addressing the Father reverently as “O Righteous Father.” Christ states that He had made known the Father to believers. Christ is the great revealer of the Father, because He came down to reveal the Father more perfectly to man. In addition, the love that existed between the Father and the Son was climatically demonstrated on a cross of shame, resulting in Christ's triumphant victory over sin, death and the grave. Christ glorified the Father in His death on the cross; and the Father glorified the Son in His resurrection from the dead.

The Paschal discourse began with a mention of love in St. John 13:1 and it ends with a mention of love in St. John 17:26. The great romance of love will culminate in eternity where it will be beautifully displayed!

May God truly bless!

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Dallas Works putting hundreds of young people to work at coveted internships this summer

Mayor Johnson's summer jobs program is meant to help build a workforce

DALLAS — In its second year, Mayor Eric Johnson's Dallas Works program is putting hundreds of young people to work this summer.

Mayor Johnson launched Dallas Works in February 2020 with the goal of eventually employing thousands of young people each summer. He modeled the program on efforts in other cities such as Houston, Boston, Chicago, and New York, which have long had robust summer jobs programs that help employ thousands of young people annually.

Dallas Works is also meant to improve public safety. One 2017 study showed that New York City's Summer Youth Employment program participants were 17% less likely to be arrested during the summer and 23% less likely to be arrested for a felony.

In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, Dallas Works helped connect 465 kids to job training and summer jobs at businesses, nonprofits, and governmental entities. That was more than in any single year of the program's predecessor, the Mayor's Intern Fellows Program.

This year, Dallas Works expanded its eligibility to include young people ages 15-24. The program is administered by local nonprofit Education is Freedom in partnership with Mayor Johnson's office.

Here are some updates and highlights on this year's Dallas Works efforts:

City Hall Interns

Through Mayor Johnson's advocacy for more opportunities for youth in Dallas, \$60,000 was included in the city budget for internships for youth at Dallas City Hall. With that funding, more than 30 young people have been employed this summer as interns with various city departments, including in Mayor Johnson's office.

"Through Dallas Works, we are able to give our young people important on-the-job experience and a window into the high calling of public service," Mayor Johnson said. "I am grateful that our city departments have taken on these interns, who represent our city's future. Dallas and our city government will be better for it."

NAF Partnership

Dallas Works is also partnering with NAF, a national organization that works with high-need communities to ensure high school students are ready for college and their careers. The partnership will allow young people in Dallas Works to receive access to STEM-focused and industry-specific curricula that will better equip them for future careers.

In addition, Dallas students who are already part of local NAF academies will receive access to Dallas Works' training, resources, and network.

"NAF is pleased to join with Dallas Mayor Johnson to support access and meaningful work-based learning experiences for students," said Lisa Dughi, CEO of NAF. "We appreciate the Mayor's focus on equity and opportunity for more young people as the program serves to increase talent development and a strong and diverse workforce."

"The partnership between Dallas Works and NAF is a perfect match that allows both programs to enhance their efforts to prepare our young people for the future," Mayor Johnson said. "Together, we can ensure that all young people in our city have equitable access to opportunities to grow and learn valuable skills this summer."

Startups

Mayor Johnson is also partnering with JPMorgan Chase to place 31 interns at companies in high-growth and high-demand sectors. Sixteen of these interns will be placed at startup companies across the City of Dallas.

Placing corporate-sponsored interns at startup companies was among the recommendations made by the Mayor's Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which submitted its report to Mayor Johnson at the end of April. The Task Force's goal was to help make Dallas an internationally recognized hub for startups and entrepreneurs.

This newly announced partnership will allow startup companies to receive essential staff support in the summer and will allow young people in the city to have access to terrific and unique employment opportunities.

"We are not just helping to build startups in Dallas. We are growing a culture of innovation in our city," Mayor Johnson said. "This partnership with JPMorgan Chase helps our young people learn from the cutting-edge businesses of today so they can develop the insight and skills to become the entrepreneurs of tomorrow."

"Increasing summer work opportunities for young people is critical, especially for populations that struggle to enter and succeed in the labor market," said Michelle Thomas, head of philanthropy in DFW for JPMorgan Chase. "JPMorgan Chase is helping more than 20 U.S. cities prepare thousands of young people for the future of work through new approaches to Summer Youth Employment Programs, including this incredible effort in Dallas. We congratulate Mayor Johnson for his leadership in creating more career and learning opportunities for our young people, and for putting them on a path to greater success and prosperity."

"When I started my company, Kanarys, I learned that for such a strong market, Dallas had more work to do in terms of supporting the startup ecosystem, which is why I was honored to work with the Mayor's Task Force to support entrepreneurship and innovation," said Mandy Price, co-founder and CEO of Kanarys and co-chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "I'm thrilled that we're already putting our recommendation in action by not only providing support for Dallas startups but also placing young talent in a unique business environment to create the next generation of entrepreneurs."

"The Mayor's Dallas Works program is a great initiative that provides job training opportunities for students and showcases the opportunities that exist in pursuing entrepreneurship as a career while also providing diverse and innovative young talent to startups companies in need of workers who can contribute to the fundamental elements necessary to help a startup start, build and scale their businesses," said Trey Bowles, co-founder and chairman emeritus of the DEC Network and co-chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

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Continued Texas Page 1

they say will make it harder for young people, people of color and people with disabilities to vote. But like last month's effort, there remains no clear path for Democrats to permanently block the voting measures, or a list of other contentious GOP-backed proposals up for debate.

Hours after they took off, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott told an Austin television station he would simply keep calling special sessions through next year if necessary, and raised the possibility of Democrats facing arrest upon returning home.

As soon as they come back in the state of Texas, they will be arrested, they will be cabled inside the Texas Capitol until they get their job done," Abbott said.

As they arrived in Washington Monday evening, the lawmakers said they would not be swayed.

"We are determined to kill this bill," said state Rep. Chris Turner, who said he and his colleagues were prepared to run out the clock on a special session that ends early next month.

Democrats' decision to hole up in Washington is aimed at ratcheting up pressure on President Joe Biden and Congress to act on voting at the federal level. Biden is set to deliver a major address on the issue Tuesday in Philadelphia, after facing growing criticism for taking what some on the left call too passive a role in the fight.

"This is a now-or-never for our democracy. We are holding the line in Texas," said Democratic state Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer. "We've left our jobs, we've left our families, we've left our homes. Because there is nothing more important than voting rights in America."

The Texas bills would outlawing 24-hour polling places, banning ballot drop boxes used to deposit mail ballots and empowering partisan poll watchers.





The measures are part of the GOP's rush to enact new voting restrictions in response to former President Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. More than a dozen states this year have already passed tougher election laws — but only in Texas have Democrats put up this kind of fight.

The state has a history of attention-getting political tactics. Texas Democrats, shut out of power in the state Capitol for decades, last fled the state in 2003 to thwart a redistricting plan. They ultimately lost that fight.

Turner noted this time the state lawmakers had dual goals. They called on Congress to pass the Democrat-backed, federal voting rights law prior to when they go on August recess, which is around the same time Texas' special session will end. He said the group would meet with Democrats across Washington, but a White House official said there are no current plans for a White House visit.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, July 15	Friday, July 16	Saturday, July 17	Sunday, July 18	Monday, July 19	Tuesday, July 20	Wednesday, July 21
 H - 90° L - 77°	 H - 91° L - 77°	 H - 92° L - 78°	 H - 92° L - 77°	 H - 91° L - 77° 50%	 H - 86° L - 73° 40%	 H - 87° L - 72°

Jamahl Mosley first got noticed as someone with NBA coaching potential when he was hired by the Denver Nuggets as a developmental coach 16 years ago.

Also in Denver at the time: an assistant general manager named Jeff Weltman, now the basketball operations president of the Orlando Magic. And Weltman never forgot the impact that Mosley had on players back then.

"Jamahl made you take note," Weltman said.

Fast-forward to Monday, when Weltman formally introduced Mosley as coach of the Magic. It's Mosley's first time as an NBA head coach, a hiring that many people around the league had expected to see happen somewhere for years.

"We just have to work on getting better," Mosley said. "I think we just have to continue to grow and build and keep these guys at a level that they just want to keep coming in every single day to get better and better and better. I think that's the important part of what this journey is going to look like."

Mosley is inheriting a rebuilding project in

Orlando, which was coached by Steve Clifford for the past three seasons. The Magic finished 21-51 this season, trading away Nikola Vucevic, Aaron Gordon and Evan Fournier during the season to acquire young players and draft picks, and they hold two of the top eight picks in this year's draft.

In short, there will be a lot of development going on in Orlando. That's what made Weltman think about Mosley.

"Jamahl has a unique set of abilities," Weltman said. "His passion, his experience, his ability to connect. He has an amazing interpersonal skill set with anyone and it stems from his compassion as a person."

The 42-year-old Mosley has spent the last 15 years as an assistant in Denver, Cleveland and Dallas. The last seven seasons were with the Mavericks. Mosley thanked a slew of people and past coaches and employers, along with his wife and children — and his mother, who died 16 years ago.

"The dream for her to be able to see me have dreams come true, it's a blessing and I'm grateful for that," Mosley said.

Mosley formally introduced as coach of Orlando Magic

By TIM REYNOLDS



The Orlando Magic's new head coach, Jamahl Mosley, smiles Monday, July 12, 2021, in Orlando, Fla. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel)

Cedric the Entertainer to host live Emmy Awards ceremony

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cedric the Entertainer will host the Emmy Awards in September as the ceremony returns to a live telecast after last year's pandemic-forced virtual event.

There will be a limited audience of nominees and guests at the Microsoft Theatre for the Sept. 19 show, CBS and the TV academy said Monday.

Contenders for the 73rd prime-time Emmys will be announced virtually at 8:30 a.m. PDT Tuesday, streaming live on Emmys.com.

"Since I was a little boy huddled up next to my grandmother, television has always been my reliable friend, so it is an enormous honor for me to host this year's Emmy

Awards," Cedric the Entertainer said in a statement.

"Throughout the roller-coaster of a year that we have all lived through, television has helped us stay connected as a society like never before," said the actor and comedian, who stars in and produces CBS' sitcom "The Neighborhood."

Among the binge-worthy shows that kept viewers company during the COVID-19 pandemic and are considered front-runners for nominations: "The Crown," "Ted Lasso," "The Mandalorian" and "Bridgerton."



Cedric the Entertainer will host the Emmy Awards in September as the ceremony returns to a live telecast after last year's pandemic-forced virtual event. There will be a limited audience of nominees and guests at the Microsoft Theatre for the Sept. 19 show airing on CBS. (Photo by Mark Von Holden/Invision/AP, File)

Houston-area COVID-19 outbreak — including delta variant cases — should be a wake-up call for Texans, health expert warns

The latest, most transmissible coronavirus variant is spreading rampantly in countries with low vaccination rates, and health experts are bracing for impact in Texas.

BY COLLEEN DEGUZMAN

Front Page Photo/Credit: Sergio Flores for The Texas Tribune

The new and highly contagious delta variant of the coronavirus may have sparked the recent outbreak of 125-plus cases of COVID-19 linked to a Houston-area youth church camp, and a Texas virologist says the breakout should be a wake-up call for communities.

"Clearly, COVID is not over," said Dr. Benjamin Neuman, a virologist and professor at Texas A&M University.

"COVID isn't ever gone until it's completely gone," Neuman said. "And I think we've made the mistake of assuming that the virus would go away or assuming that the virus wouldn't affect children ... We keep stum-

bling into the same mistakes over and over, and that is not a way out of COVID-19."

The Galveston County church's camp took place in June with more than 450 adults and youth in attendance, according to the Houston Chronicle. More than 125 COVID-19 cases have been reported, of which three thus far have been confirmed to be the delta variant.

The delta variant is poised to become the leading variant in the United States in coming months according to Texas health experts, whose top concern is the risk it represents for those who are unvaccinated.

That variant, known by scientists as B.1.617.2, now

accounts for about a quarter of virus infections in the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. First discovered in India, it triggered a devastating outbreak there in April and May and has since spread to 85 other countries, attacking areas where vaccination rates are the lowest.

While dozens of variants have spawned from the original COVID-19 virus, the delta variant is the most transmissible so far, said Dr. Rebecca Fischer, an infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor at Texas A&M University's School of Public Health. It is also leading to higher rates of hospitalization for those infected, according to research.

Fischer called the variant "a perfect storm of a variant" because of how easily it can pass from person to person. Because of limited testing, there is little concrete infor-

mation about its prevalence in Texas. However, Fischer said there's a clear way to prevent uncontrollable surges: vaccinations.

As of July 4, according to The Texas Tribune's COVID-19 tracker, about 41.5% of Texans had been fully vaccinated. That compares to the current national rate of 47% for complete vaccinations, according to the CDC. But rates of administered shots in Texas have slowed in the past few months — at a time when Fischer says protection is needed more than ever.

"Don't let your guard down," she said. "We're so close to getting our lives back, and we are, in some way, moving in that direction ... but this is another curveball by this virus."

Here's what is known about the delta variant so far.

What is the delta variant?

Proteins on the outer

spikes of the delta variant are "stickier," making it more transmissible than other variants, said Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, an epidemiologist at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Dallas.

"It's more contagious," she said. "The key change about this variant is that it has a better way of getting into our cells and latching onto them."

Studies have shown that the delta variant is up to 60% more transmissible than the previously leading variant, the alpha variant — and the percent of COVID-19 tests coming back positive in the past seven days is 5.53%, compared to 4.35% seven days prior.

A study from Scotland found that the hospitalization rate of those who contracted the delta variant was about 85% higher than those fighting the alpha variant.

The variant's symptoms

more resemble those of a cold — headaches, sore throat, runny nose and fevers — than common COVID-19 symptoms such as coughing and loss of smell, according to the Covid Symptom Study, a project by doctors and scientists to track the symptoms and spread of the virus.

Where is the delta variant in Texas?

The delta variant has already planted itself in several cities across the state, including Houston and Dallas, according to the Chronicle and The Dallas Morning News.

But the number of delta cases in Texas is "sorely underestimated," Fischer said, because of a lack of testing for variants.

Regular COVID-19 tests do not detect which variant is involved, which requires genomic sequencing, a

Continue COVID Page 6

Pyer Moss wows with couture show honoring Black inventors

By JOCELYN NOVECK

IRVINGTON, N.Y. (AP) — This time, the weather gods were smiling on Kerby Jean-Raymond and his label, Pyer Moss. So too were the fashion gods.

Two days after torrential rains and lightning sent guests fleeing for cover and forced Jean-Raymond to postpone unveiling his hotly awaited first couture collection, the sun came out Saturday and the crowds came back. They were rewarded with a hugely imaginative, visually audacious show that blurred the lines between fashion and art as it paid tribute to the ingenuity of Black inventors often overlooked by history.

And so, there was the peanut butter dress — literally, a huge, soft sculpted jar of the stuff. There was a stunning hot roller cape — which was what it sounds like, hot rollers from head to toe. There was an ice cream cone with chaps for the cone. There was an air-conditioning unit, an old-fashioned mobile phone, a kitchen mop.

There was a pastel pink lampshade dress, with beaded fringes. There was a chess board, and a white metal folding chair, and a bottlecap — each costume a sophisticated work of sculpture. There was also a refrigerator with colorful letter magnets spelling out the phrase: “But who invented Black trauma?”

There were also dancers, a rap musician, a string section, and a history lesson from Elaine Brown — activist, writer and a former leader in the Black Panther Party.

Jean-Raymond, whose

shows always entwine his ideas about fashion with those about culture, race and society, said in an interview after the show that his goal was “to highlight inventions by Black people and show them in a nontraditional way,” involving 3D construction and sculpture.

All Pyer Moss shows attract intense interest, but this show had even more buzz because Jean-Raymond was the first Black American designer invited by France’s Chambre Syndicale to show a collection during Paris Couture Week -- the event was livestreamed, with officials in Paris extending the length of Couture Week to accommodate the rescheduled show.

And the setting was deeply significant: Villa Lewaro, an early 20th-century mansion in leafy Irvington, N.Y., about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from New York City built by Madam C.J. Walker, the daughter of enslaved parents who became a hair-care magnate and a self-made millionaire.

“Madam C.J. Walker’s wealth was more than money,” Jean-Raymond wrote in the show notes. “Black prosperity begins in the mind, in the spirit and in each other. She knew that no dollar amount could ever satisfy the price tag of freedom — that green sheets of paper & copper coins could never mend souls, heal hearts or undo the evil we’ve endured.”

It began with a speech by Brown, who gave a history lesson of sorts of the Black struggle for justice in America and asked the

crowd, “Where do we go from here? Where does the freedom movement go from here?” She urged the crowd to look past differences and “get back on the freedom train.”

Then came the dancers — men in white, who slowly shed their jackets and eventually their shirts as they accompanied rapper 22Gz performing several numbers, including “Sniper Gang Freestyle” and “King of NY,” while the models walked the circular runway.

Jean-Raymond said he and his team had gone through an exacting and exhaustive process to meet the demands of a couture collection.

“We went through rounds and rounds of design,” he said. “We started with a

completely different concept. Then the team went out to Joshua Tree and did ayahuasca together. And then we came back with this concept.

“So it wasn’t just couture in the traditional sense where we were sewing up garments,” he said. “There was welding involved and fiberglass molding. And we made shoes.”

The hair curler outfit alone, he said, took months because “it was just people sitting there and curling real weaves onto hair rollers. You know, the bottle-cap took two months. Every time we made something, we sat back, we thought, ‘How can we make it better?’ And every time the construction got more complicated.”



(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)



(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)



(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)



(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Texas Democrats dig in after exodus; GOP threatens arrest

By PAUL J. WEBER, ACACIA CORONADO and BRIAN SLODYSKO

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Democrats who hurriedly took off to Washington to block sweeping new election laws urged Congress on Tuesday to quickly pass legislation protecting voting rights, while Republican Gov. Greg Abbott threatened them with arrest the moment they return.

Speaking to reporters outside the Capitol, the Democrats were realistic about the limits of their gambit, noting they can hold up the GOP-backed proposals at home for only so long and arguing that only federal legislation would prevent some of the new restrictions from becoming law. In Austin, House Republicans authorized state troopers to find and corral missing legislators, while a depleted but still-working state Senate barreled toward passing new voting restrictions in a show of resolve by the GOP.

“We can’t hold this tide back forever. We’re buying some time. We need Congress and all of our federal leaders to use that time wisely,” Democratic state Rep. Chris Turner said, gathered with his fellow quorum-breakers outside the U.S. Capitol.

The Democrats’ dramatic exodus was in part aimed at rallying their voters on what they see as a priority issue ahead of the 2022 midterms, and at pressuring President Joe Biden to act as a federal voting legislation has stalled for months in the Senate. But

just as they began getting settled in Washington, Biden appeared to tacitly acknowledge the fading hopes for the bills during a speech in Philadelphia.

Biden called efforts to curtail voting accessibility “un-American” and “un-democratic” and launched a broadside against his predecessor, Donald Trump, who baselessly alleged misconduct in the 2020 election after his defeat. More than a dozen states this year have already passed tougher election laws — but only in Texas have Democrats put up this kind of fight.

Back in Texas, Republicans in the unusually skeletal state Capitol authorized finding and bringing back more than 50 lawmakers “under warrant of arrest if necessary.” However, because state troopers have no jurisdiction beyond Texas, the move has little practical effect in the short term.

Abbott has already threatened Democrats with arrest once they come back home, which may not be until the current 30-day special session ends in August. Though that would successfully stymie the GOP’s current effort, Abbott has vowed to keep trying until the 2022 elections if necessary.

“We think things have been delayed, not denied,” said state Rep. Jim Murphy, the House GOP caucus leader.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Continued COVID Page 5

process separate from regular virus tests and one that not all labs are able to do. Neuman, the virologist at Texas A&M University, said sequencing is rare and can cost up to \$100 per test.

“So it’s expensive, and it doesn’t really improve patient care,” Neuman said. “It’s a good thing to know for public health people, but knowing the kind of strain wouldn’t change the way we treat a person.”

Sequencing takes about six weeks to process, he added.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is aware of 15 labs in Texas that have detected the delta variant. However, labs are not required to report sequencing results to the agency, “so there may be additional labs conducting

sequences that are not reporting their results to public health,” the agency said in a statement.

According to DSHS’s dashboard, which tracks the number of cases across the state by variants, 120 of the 4,982 sequencing tests, or 0.02% of the cases, found the delta variant.

“This is not a comprehensive count of variant cases on this page and we have explained in many interviews that only a small sample of cases are sent for sequencing,” the statement read.

Do I need to be worried if I’m vaccinated?

Vaccines appear to retain high levels of protection against the delta variant, according to research.

Jetelina, the UTHealth epidemiologist, said the Pfizer vaccine offers around 87% protection

against the variant and the Moderna vaccine results are similar to Pfizer’s. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine also retains much of its efficacy against the delta variant at around 60%, according to recent research.

Those who are fully vaccinated, however, can still be carriers of the delta, Fischer emphasized.

“This is why vaccination is so key,” Fischer said. “It could travel around those who are vaccinated, but they won’t get sick. But then once it reaches someone who is unvaccinated, that’s when it could really permeate.”

DSHS said it recommends people protect themselves from the variant the same way they do for other variants of the virus.

“The best protection from all strains of COVID is getting fully vaccinated,”

the statement said. “People who are not vaccinated should continue to follow COVID precautions, like wearing a mask and social distancing.”

Though the CDC says people who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear masks in public spaces, Neuman is pleading for everyone to continue wearing them, especially with the delta variant spreading in Texas.

“The only confirmed cases that we know are cases that spread through the air,” he said, and those are “from somebody’s mouth to somebody else’s mouth.” Because of that, “blocking one or both of those mouths is really the ultimate way to stop the virus from spreading.”

https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/07/texas-covid-delta-vaccination/?utm_source=article-share&utm_medium=social