

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



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June 14 - 20, 2018

GRAY/BLAKEMORE FAMILY REUNION 2018

“Back to Our Roots”



“Back to Our Roots” was the theme of the 2018 Blakemore-Gray Family Reunion, which took place in Dallas from June 7-10. Fifty-four family members of Wilmer Oscar Gray and Ocie Blakemore Gray, including children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, gathered at the Embassy Suites Dallas Love Field. Attendees traveled from The Netherlands, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, El Paso, San Antonio, Palestine and Dallas, Texas. The youngest member was their four-month-old great-great-nephew from Kansas City, Missouri.

As part of the celebration, Mr. Edward Gray, the fourth child of W.O. and Ocie Gray, conducted a tour of the family's Dallas roots along with Dallas history, including West Dallas, South Dallas, Fair Park, and Oak Cliff.

Dr. James H. Gray, the eighth child of W.O. and Ocie Gray, arranged a tour of the W.O. Gray Elementary School in Balch Springs, Texas. W.O. Gray Elementary School honors “Professor Gray” and Ocie B. Gray, who both dedicated their lives to education. W.O. Gray began his teaching career in 1930 and was an educator in Mesquite from 1946 to 1970. He actively advocated for African-American education, both within the community and as a liaison with the Mesquite Independent School District.

A family reunion is not complete without a Prayer Breakfast, and this was no exception. Chaplain Maceo Gray, the seventh child of W.O. and Ocie Gray, closed out the reunion with a service featuring stories about the Underground Railroad and the sermon “A Family Reunion You Don't Want to Miss”.

St. Paul AME - Dallas, Texas Celebrates Men and Women's Day Sunday, June 3, 2018



DALLAS - On June 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm, St. Paul AME Church honored two deserving community servants in a 3:00 pm celebration service. Ms. Matty McKinney Johnigan was honored as Woman of the Year and Dr. George O. Willis was honored as Man of the Year. Both honorees have been faithful members of St. Paul AME for more than 50 years and are well known for excellence in

service to the church and the Dallas community.

The Honorable John Wiley Price (Dallas County Commissioner) presented special recognition to Ms. Johnigan for her work in Jail Ministry at the Lew Sterrett County Jail over the past two decades. In presenting the plaque, the Commissioner lauded the importance of such programs in helping to bring hope and restoration to inmates who have often been separated from their families and the community in general for several years. Ms. Johnigan also received a plaque from the AME Greater Dallas District Lay Organization and the Charity Cole Davis Women's Missionary Society of St. Paul AME.

Dr. George Oliver Willis is a 90-year-old retired educator who enjoyed a 50-year stellar career in education. Born May, 1929 in Quitman, Texas, he received his early education in that city, graduating from Quitman Colored High School in 1946. He graduated from Jarvis Christian College in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in English and a minor in French, followed by a language certification

in French, a Master's in Education Administration and a Ph. D. in Education. Dr. Willis served as classroom Teacher in several Dallas Public Schools and was promoted to principal—a position he held for 26 years culminating in his being named Principal of the Year. Following retirement from Dallas ISD, Dr. Willis continued to make a significant difference in the lives of young people as an educator at Collin County Community College (Plano, Texas), Bishop College (Dallas, Texas), and Southwest Christian College (Terrell, Texas). In recognition of his outstanding contributions to education, he was named Professor of the Year at Southwest Christian College, inducted into Jarvis Christian College Pioneer Hall of Fame, and named a Living Legend in Education in Dallas. A devoted Boy Scout Troop master for 40 years, Dr. Willis received the organization's highest award, the Silver Beaver. At St. Paul AME, Dr. Willis served as Trustee for many years and has led many church programs and initiatives. The Honorable Kevin Felder (Dallas City Councilman) presented a plaque to Dr. Willis for his dedicated service



to the Dallas Community on education. He enumerated the various schools where Dr. Willis has served as Classroom Teacher and as Principal concluding with accolades for his shining example of service youth in the Dallas Community. Dr. Willis also received awards from his alma mater, Jarvis Christian College, and the Boy Scouts of America.

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Oakland again celebrates NBA champion Warriors

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

You will Seek me
and Find me when
you seek me with
all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13



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EDITORIAL PAGE



Dr. J. Ester Davis
Editorial Columnist

"This Is My Dad"
By Dr. J. Ester Davis

My third promotion in corporate America put me in national accounts Business Systems Division.

By 2:00 PM on a Friday afternoon in an eastern city my colleagues and I knew we were in trouble.

We were going to have to work another weekend away from home. We worked all day Saturday. Sunday morning I found a church in the area. Out of habit I signed the visitor's card and placed Conroe as my "hometown".

The church recommended by a black employee at the hotel was quite historic, reminiscent of Philadelphia's classic architectural deco. Standing as a visitor, and after the announcer finished with her welcome, the Pastor asked for the visitor from Conroe to stand. I stood quietly. The pastor started this story and asked me to come down front. I remember an usher coming with outstretched hand and I followed her. The Pastor in his slow deliberate drawl was explaining his days at Conroe College. Now, I am totally comfortable. He went on with his story of needing money, being away from home, and he went to work for "this black man and his brothers hauling wood." His voice changed when he said . . . "and they owned the trucks". Finally after his story of his days

at Conroe College, he asked if I would like to say something. At this moment, I was only thinking about my Dad and hearing his voice in my head telling us he knew ministers all over America. As a Baptist girl, I knew proper protocol. "That was my Dad" I said directly after my opening greeting.

Conroe, Texas, is home to two (2) black colleges, built years after the Civil War. Conroe Normal & Industrial College, 1903, located on 10th Street down the street from my Uncle WS' house and Royal College, 1927, up the hill from my grandparent's farm on Royal College Hill. I passed this college all of my formative years going to and from 'Big Mama' house. Royal College was nestled in the middle of small black farms and ranches outside of Conroe. In 1913, Conroe College had a five story building destroyed by fire. As you can imagine so much was speculated about this fire and this era of progress.

My Dad, Deacon James Saddler, born in 1914, (six brothers, five sisters) owned pulp wood trucks and truck parts all of my life. Daddy gave us on-the-job-training. I wrote my first receipt at 12 years old. My parents were married 55 years before my Mother changed addresses. Daddy was a good provider and my Mom was good at everything else. My childhood was filled with lots of rules, space, love

A Trumpet Tribute to All Fathers



and attention, a brother, two sisters, cousins in the area, cats, dogs, baby chicks every Spring and a playhouse in the backyard. We never moved from the house my grandfather built when I was three years old.

My Dad loved Texas because he said it was rich with timber. He cleared a lot of "Texas Timber" around what is now 'The Woodlands' east and west across Texas. He also had access to lots of eager labor with two colleges full of young black ministers. To this day

with all of the stories about those days, I marvel at the courage, grit and faith of my Dad. Years before Daddy changed addresses, we celebrated "James Saddler Day" with proclamations and visitors from several counties. I was grown before I learned of the Steadfast prayer group that prayed for him to come home every night.

Let's celebrate Fathers and write about the precious memories.

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

You probably thought he didn't see
Or that he hadn't heard,
Life lessons that you taught him,
But he got every word.

You may have thought he missed it all
And that you'd grow apart,
But he picked up everything.
It's written on his heart!

Without you, Dad, he wouldn't be
Who he is today.



You gave him a strong foundation
That no one can take away.

He's grown up with your values,
And I'll bet he's glad he did;
So here's to you, dear father:
He's your forever grateful kid.

Dr. Joyce W. Teal
©

Happy Father's Day!

LAWSUIT FILED TO BLOCK OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER IN CHICAGO

Crusader Staff Report (The Chicago Crusader/NNPA Member)

Days before the Chicago Plan Commission approved plans for the Obama Presidential Center, a federal lawsuit was filed to block the proposed \$500 million facility that will be built in Jackson Park.

The 500-acre park is located in Chicago's predominantly Black Woodlawn and South Shore neighborhoods, where former First Lady Michelle Obama, rapper Kanye West and some of the nation's most prominent Blacks once lived. On Thursday, May 17, the Chicago Plan Commission unanimously approved the blueprints for the Obama Presidential Center, despite emotional appeals from protestors who are concerned that the library will eventually drive up rents in the neighborhoods and force out longtime, low-income residents. The plans now go before the city's 50-member city

council. While those plans are expected to pass that stage, the Obama Foundation faces a lawsuit that may be its biggest hurdle yet.

The lawsuit was filed on Monday, May 14 by "Protect Our Parks," a non-profit organization that seeks a court order to "bar the Park District and the City from approving the building of the Presidential Center and from conveying any interest in or control of the Jackson Park site to the Foundation."

In its complaint, Protect Our Parks accuses the Chicago Park District of an "institutional bait and switch." The organization said the park district transferred public land to the Obama Foundation to house an official federal Obama Federal Library. But that purpose changed when Obama decided his center will not be his official library. Instead, the federal National Records and Archives Administration will run it in another location. In the lawsuit, Protect

Our Parks called Chicago's plan to lease public park space an "illegal land grab."

The organization also said the transfer of park land to a non-governmental private entity violates the park district code. In addition, Protect Our Parks said the park district and the city will receive only token rent for the land and the Park District Act law "does not authorize the Park District itself to transfer valuable public trust land for virtually no compensatory return."

Protect Our Parks says that city officials are "prohibited by law" from turning over public park land to a non-governmental private entity for private use.

At a meeting Thursday, May 17, the commission was expected to take up a resolution authorizing a long-term ground lease for 19.3 acres in Jackson Park from the city to the Obama Foundation. In March 2015, Chicago's city council approved an ordinance for Chicago Park District land in Jackson Park to be trans-

ferred to the city of Chicago to lease to the Obama Foundation.

Protect Our Parks' lawsuit may force planning officials to rewrite the ordinance.

Protect Our Parks is being represented by Roth Fioretti; Robert Fioretti is a former Chicago alderman who challenged Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2015 before endorsing Emanuel in the run-off. More recently, Fioretti was defeated in a March Democratic primary bid for Cook County Board president.

In an emailed statement, Emanuel's mayoral spokesman Grant Klinzman said, "The Obama Presidential Center is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest hundreds of millions of dollars that will create good jobs on the South Side, bring our communities together and honor the legacy of Chicago's favorite son and daughter. While some choose to stand in the way of progress for the South Side, we are focused on

making progress in every community in Chicago."

But later that day, Emanuel at an event called the lawsuit frivolous and said that the "notion that somehow this is not a presidential library, because the actual papers will be in New York ...to me not only is frivolous, but means the people that filed this don't understand the 21st century," he added. "The good news is, the presidential papers will be in two places but there will be only one library, here in Chicago."

Emanuel said that the papers will be digitized.

Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Friends of the Parks, also released a statement, saying officials with the group welcome the Obama Center to the South Side "but disagree with the choice to locate it on public parkland, rather than vacant land across the street from Washington Park."

"While we are not involved with this lawsuit in any way, it is an indication of the fact the Friends of

the Parks is not alone in our concern about Chicago's parks being seen as sites for real estate development," Irizarry said.

Plans have not gone smoothly for the library since President Barack Obama announced that Jackson Park will be the location of his library in 2016. Residents in Woodlawn and South shore have held numerous protests demanding that the Obama Foundation sign a community benefits agreement as concerns of neighborhood gentrification and rising rents continue to grow. Despite their concerns, Obama has said that a community benefits agreement is not necessary, because his library is an automatic benefit to the neighborhoods.

This article was originally published in The Chicago Crusader, a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). Learn more about becoming a member of the NNPA at www.nnpa.org.

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Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY
Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service - 6:30 p.m.
Bible Class - 7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY
Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

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Sammie Berry
Minister

Calendar of Events

Sunday Bible School
8:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Song Practice
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class
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Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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Worship Opportunities
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Study 6:00 PM

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Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips, Jr.

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Sunday
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Church School- 9AM
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Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
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Supreme Court allows Ohio, other state voter purges

(AP) — States can target people who haven't cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls, the Supreme Court ruled Monday in a case that has drawn wide attention amid stark partisan divisions and the approach of the 2018 elections.

By a 5-4 vote that split the conservative and liberal justices, the court rejected arguments in a case from Ohio that the practice violates a federal law intended to increase the ranks of registered voters. A handful of other states also use voters' inactivity to trigger processes that could lead to their removal from the voting rolls.

Justice Samuel Alito said for the court that Ohio is complying with the 1993 National Voter Registration Act. He was joined by his four conservative colleagues in an opinion that drew praise from Republican officials and conservative scholars.

President Donald Trump hailed the ruling from Singapore on Tuesday, tweeting: "Just won big Supreme Court decision on Voting! Great News!"

The four liberal justices dis-

sented, and civil rights groups and some Democrats warned that more Republican-led states could enact voter purges similar to Ohio's.

Ohio is of particular interest nationally because it is one of the larger swing states in the country with the potential to determine the outcome of presidential elections. But partisan fights over ballot access are playing out across the country. Democrats have accused Republicans of trying to suppress votes from minorities and poorer people who tend to vote for Democrats. Republicans have argued that they are trying to promote ballot integrity and prevent voter fraud.

Ohio's contested voter purge stems from an inoffensive requirement in federal law that states have to make an effort to keep their voter rolls in good shape by removing people who have moved or died.

But Ohio pursues its goal more aggressively than most, relying on two things: voter inactivity over six years encompassing three federal elections and the failure to return a card, sent after the

first missed election, asking people to confirm that they have not moved and continue to be eligible to vote.

Voters who return the card or show up to vote over the next four years after they receive it remain registered. If they do nothing, their names eventually fall off the list of registered voters.

The case hinged on a provision of the voter registration law that prohibits removing someone from the voting rolls "by reason of the person's failure to vote."

Civil rights groups said the court should be focused on making it easier for people to vote, not allowing states to put up roadblocks to casting ballots.

"With the midterm election season now underway, the court's ruling demands heightened levels of vigilance as we anticipate that officials will read this ruling as a green light for loosely purging the registration rolls in their community," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

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SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, June 14	Friday, June 15	Saturday, June 16	Sunday, June 17	Monday, June 18	Tuesday, June 19	Wednesday, June 20
H - 98° L - 77°	H-97° L-76°	H-95° L - 75°	H-90° L-73°	H-84° L-73°	H-90° L-74°	H-91° L-75°

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Federal judge approves AT&T-Time Warner merger



WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge approved the \$85 billion mega-merger of AT&T and Time Warner on Tuesday, potentially ushering in a wave of media consolidation while shaping how much consumers pay for streaming TV and movies.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon green-lit the merger without imposing major conditions as some experts had expected. The Trump Justice Department had sued to block the \$85 billion merger, arguing that it would hurt competition in cable and satellite TV and jack up costs to consumers for streaming TV and movies.

Now, the phone and pay-TV giant AT&T will be allowed to absorb the owner of CNN, HBO, the Warner Bros. movie studio, "Game of Thrones," coveted sports programming and other "must-see" shows. The Justice Department could appeal the ruling, although it said only that it is considering its options.

The ruling could open the floodgates to deal making in the fast-changing worlds of entertainment production and distribution. Major cable, satellite and phone companies are bulking up with purchases of entertainment conglomerates to compete against rivals born on the internet such as Amazon and Google.

Waiting in the wings are potential big-billions deals involving 21st Century Fox and Disney, Verizon and CBS, T-Mobile and Sprint. Comcast and Verizon are also jockeying for position in the new landscape.

A combined AT&T-Time Warner could also get a boost from Monday's official end of net neutrality —the Obama-era rules that barred broadband and wireless companies from favoring their own services to the detriment of rivals like Netflix. AT&T and Verizon now can give priority on their networks to their own movies and TV shows, while hurting rivals such as Amazon, YouTube and future startups.

"The impact from this decision will have wide reaching ramifications across the telecommunications, media, and tech industry for decades to come," said GBH Insights analyst Dan Ives.

The merger would combine a company that produces news and entertainment with one that funnels that programming to consumers. AT&T cast it as a necessary step at a time when people spend more time watching video on phones and tablets and less time on traditional live TV on a big screen.

Leon said the government failed to prove that the merger would lead to higher prices and other harm to consumers. Despite Justice Department lawyers taking their "best shot," he said, their evidence was "too thin a reed for this court to rely on."

Leon added that he wouldn't temporarily block the merger for a possible appeal by the government. The "drop dead" deadline for completing the merger is June 21. If it's not wrapped up by then, either company could walk away, and AT&T would have to

pay a \$500 million breakup fee.

The ruling was a stinging defeat for the Justice Department. Opposing the merger forced federal antitrust lawyers to argue against standing legal doctrine that favors mergers among companies that don't compete directly with each other.

Another wild card: When first announced in October 2016, the deal drew fire from then-candidate Donald Trump, who promised to kill it "because it's too much concentration of power in the hands of too few." Trump has also publicly feuded with Time Warner's CNN, calling it "failing" and a purveyor of "fake news." The president's statements didn't come up during the trial.

John Bergmayer, senior counsel at the consumer group Public Knowledge, said the decision could have long-lasting negative effects thanks to "the many other mergers it will encourage." In a statement, Bergmayer called for "reinvigorated regulatory oversight of the video marketplace."

Dallas-based AT&T is a wireless, broadband and satellite behemoth that became the country's biggest pay-TV provider with its purchase of DirecTV. It claims about 25 million of the 90 million or so U.S. households that are pay-TV customers.

AT&T general counsel David McAtee said the company plans to close the deal on or before June 20.

Oakland again celebrates NBA champion Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. — For the second straight year, throngs of Golden State Warriors fans turned out for a victory parade to celebrate a team some are calling an NBA dynasty and got a treat when several players got off their buses to mingle with the crowd.

Hundreds of thousands of fans in gold and blue and holding signs that read "Dynasty" and "Back to Back Champions" waved from behind barriers set up along the route in downtown Oakland, California, as the Warriors rode by in the open, double-decker buses Tuesday.

Stephen Curry, NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant and the rest of the Warriors, who won their third title in four years last week, took turns raising the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the roaring crowd, which officials said could reach up to 1 million fans.

Officials had promised an "interactive" parade with some fans able to ask the players questions and giant TV screens for the crowd to see them and hear their answers as the moved along the route. But there were no screens and when Klay Thompson used a megaphone to say hello, his greeting was drowned out by the cheering crowd.

Curry was able to connect in a different way when he opened a bottle of champagne, shook it and sprayed the crowd with it. He briefly

got off the bus and walked up to fans, throwing T-shirts, bracelets and other souvenirs to them and then holding the trophy up as dozens of cameras surrounded him.

Curry wore a large sun hat and under it a "RUN TMC" baseball cap in honor of Tim Lincecum, Mitch Richmond and Chris Mullin, the namesakes for the Don Nelson-coached Warriors teams during the 1989-90 and 1990-91 seasons.

"We never really imagined that we would be having one parade, let alone two and now three," Curry said during a short live interview before the parade started. "But this is for you guys! We are going to try and get greedy and go get some more."

JaVale McGee, Nick Young and Jordan Bell posed for photographs and also mingled with fans, even hugging some of them, energizing the pumped-up crowd. Even coach Steve Kerr joined in on the fun and walked up to fans to sign autographs.

"I'm just excited to be here with these guys" McGee, who was wearing only shorts, told KGO-TV. "Our fans are amazing! All the love that they show is just beautiful."

Young, also just in shorts during a very warm afternoon, ran up and down the street, giving fans high-fives. He then took a broom from a fan and posed for photographs as

dozens of people took pictures with their phones.

The repeat champions went back-to-back, beating LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-85 on Friday night to finish off a four-game sweep of the NBA Finals in the fourth consecutive meeting between the clubs.

Melissa Marzan, 25, of Santa Cruz said she doesn't take the Warriors' winning streak for granted.

"We all know it's not going to happen forever, so for now we're just going to enjoy it," she said.

Oakland resident Jasmine Culp, 36, painted her lips blue and dressed in a sparkling golden sequined dress, sash and blue-gold feather accessories to attend the parade with her three children.

She acknowledged it could be the family's last parade in Oakland, since the Warriors plan to move to San Francisco next year.

"It's sad to see a big part of our city move away," she said. "Not going to want to travel over the bridge to see them, but we will."

Adriana Carnecer of San Francisco said she is a lifelong Warriors fan and is excited the team will be closer to home.

On the Warriors being dubbed a dynasty, the 15-year-old said "it's the start of something that's going to be greater than it already is."

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Rebel Spirits: Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. was produced by Blawan Schaller Productions and is presented locally by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. The exhibition was created by Lawrence Schaller with support from Getty Images. Photo: Grant Straughter. Photo Room Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Dallas.

Puerto Rico issues new data on Hurricane Maria deaths



(AP) — Eight days after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Efrain Perez felt a pain in his chest.

Doctors near his small town sent him to Puerto Rico's main hospital for emergency surgery for an aortic aneurysm. But when the ambulance pulled into the parking lot in the capital, San Juan, after a more than two-hour drive, a doctor ran out to stop it.

"He said, 'Don't bring him in here, I can't care for him. I don't have power. I don't have water. I don't have an anesthesiologist,'" Perez's daughter, Nerybelle, recalled.

The 95-year-old Perez died as the ambulance drove him back to southwestern Puerto Rico but he is not included in the island's official hurricane death toll of 64 people, a figure at the center of a growing legal and political fight over the response to the Category 4 storm that hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, 2017.

Facing at least three lawsuits demanding more data on the death toll, Puerto Rico's government released new information on Tuesday that added detail to the growing consensus that hundreds or even thousands of people died as an indirect result of the storm.

According to the new data, there were 1,427 more deaths from September to December 2017 than the average for the same time period over the previous four years. Additionally, September and October had the highest number of deaths of any months since at least 2013. But the statistics don't indicate whether the storm and its aftermath contributed to the additional deaths.

The Puerto Rican government says it believes more than 64 people died as a result of the storm but it will not raise its official toll until George Washington University completes a study of the data being carried out on behalf of the U.S. territory.

The issue is clouded by the fact that the federal government and U.S. states and territories have no uniform definition of what constitutes a storm-related death. The National Hurricane Center counts only deaths directly caused by a storm, like a person killed by a falling tree. It does not count indirect deaths, like someone whose medical equipment fails in a blackout.

Puerto Rico began by counting mostly direct deaths, with some indirect ones. Then it stopped updating its toll entirely while it waits for the George Washington University study, due later this summer.

The death count has had political implications. Visiting Puerto Rico on Oct. 3, two weeks after the storm hit, President Donald Trump asked Gov. Ricardo Rossello what the death toll was.

"Sixteen," Rossello answered.

"Sixteen people certified," Trump said. "Sixteen people versus in the thousands. You

can be very proud of all of your people and all of our people working together. Sixteen versus literally thousands of people. You can be very proud. Everybody watching can really be very proud of what's taken place in Puerto Rico."

On Monday, two Democrats introduced a bill to the Republican-controlled Congress that would establish federal procedures for counting deaths after a natural disaster, saying that will help improve the federal response and be key to allocating federal funds. The \$2 million proposed project would allow the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency to hire the National Academy of Medicine to do a study on how best to assess fatalities during and after a disaster, given that the process is currently left up to U.S. states and territories.

"Nobody rebuilding his or her life after a natural disaster should suffer the negligence we've seen in Puerto Rico," Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said. "Too many Puerto Rican families are suffering additional burdens today because officials won't acknowledge their loved ones' deaths."

Like Perez, thousands of sick Puerto Ricans were unable to receive medical care in the months after the storm caused the worst blackout in U.S. history, which continues to this day, with 6,983 home and businesses still without power.

The data released Tuesday showed increases in several illnesses in 2017 that could have been linked to the storm: Cases of sepsis, a serious bloodstream infection usually caused by bacteria, rose from 708 in 2016 to 835 last year. Deaths from diabetes went from 3,151 to 3,250 and deaths from heart illnesses increased from 5,417 to 5,586.

The data was not broken down by month, preventing an analysis of whether the illnesses rose after Hurricane Maria.

CNN and the Puerto Rico Center for Investigative Journalism sued the Puerto Rican government after it refused to release a detailed accounting of deaths in the wake of the storm. On June 5, a judge gave the government until Tuesday to release a database listing the causes of death of all those who died from two days before the storm until today, along with all the death certificates and burial and cremation certificates for the same period.

"People still don't have a clear picture as to how many lives were lost due to a lack of food, medicine, health services or simply because of an ineffective response to an emergency. That's why it's urgent to shed light on all components of government preparedness and response," Judge Lauracelis Roques wrote in her ruling.

The government on Tuesday requested more time to release all the death certificates, saying Social Security data had to be redacted from 48,000 individual documents.

The judge rejected the request and the government planned to announce its next steps later in the day.

Meanwhile, thousands of Puerto Ricans were hoping the release of the information will lead to their loved ones being included in the storm's toll, something they say will provide a sense of closure and show the American public the true cost of the hurricane.

Until now, Perez has been "one of those who do not count," his daughter told The Associated Press. "That's a lie."

Lucila Pardo, 96, spent nearly four months in a sweltering nursing home that did not have power and developed bed sores by the time she was moved in early January to another home where electricity had been restored. By then, the sores had become infected and she was taken to a hospital where she spent two weeks before dying of septicemia.

"That figure of 64 is a lack of respect for those who died from other consequences," said Pardo's granddaughter Analid Nazario.

"The hospital wrote a letter apologizing," Nazario told the AP, adding that they were understaffed.

A Harvard study published last month estimates there were as many as 4,600 more deaths than usual in the three months after Maria, although some independent experts questioned the methodology and the numbers in that study. Still, previous studies have found the number of direct and indirect hurricane-related deaths is higher than the official toll, including a 2017 report that said there were nearly 500 more deaths than usual on the island in September.

Days before the government was ordered to release the new data, Puerto Rico's Institute of Statistics sued the demographic registrar for the information. On June 1, the agency released information showing there were an additional 1,397 deaths from September to December 2017 compared with the same period the previous year.

Among those who died the first week of October was Raul Antonio Morales, a 95-year-old diabetic who didn't have the insulin he needed because the nursing home where he lived didn't have power or a generator, according to his granddaughter, Maytee Sanz. She said relatives tried to obtain a generator, but there was none available. A doctor at the nursing home certified that Morales died of natural causes, and he is not included in the official death toll.

"I think the government has been extremely inept and inefficient regarding the statistics," Sanz said. "There were a lot of deaths certified as natural simply because they ... were not electrocuted or did not drown, but they were a result of the hurricane. When you don't have access to insulin or a respiratory machine, you have no way of surviving."

Publication FY17-18 #118

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2018

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Sylvan Learning and the National Math and Science Initiative Partner to Expand Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Opportunities

Dallas-based National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) is announcing a joint partnership with the nation's leading supplemental and enrichment education program Sylvan Learning to bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to more students across the country. Together, they will seek cooperative opportunities to develop and implement robust STEM programming, particularly for children in low-income families and underrepresented demographics in the STEM field.

NMSI and Sylvan Learning have pledged to share teaching and learning best practices that facilitate scaling STEM activities with consistency and quality, while also advocating for conditions that support STEM education. The partners will ensure that quality standards are met, while examining methods of strengthening the pipeline of STEM-proficient students.

NMSI CEO Dr. Bernard A.

Harris, Jr. is the first African American to walk in space. During his 25 years as an astronaut at NASA, Dr. Harris conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology, and developed in-flight medical devices to extend astronaut stays in space. He later became the CEO and Managing Partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm that invests in early- to mid-stage healthcare technologies and companies.

"After spending decades of my career involved in math and science education, I see the value of the education Sylvan Learning is providing to students across the United States, and I know our partnership will be a significant benefit to students," said Dr. Harris. "NMSI has worked for 10 years to strengthen the current STEM teacher workforce, to develop more STEM teachers and to expand student achievement in STEM education across the country. I'm now looking forward to explor-

ing additional opportunities with the Sylvan team."

The official agreement is taking place on Thursday, June 14th at 2:00 p.m. CDT at the NMSI Dallas office, located at 8350 N. Central Expressway, Suite M-2200.

"We are excited about the opportunity the partnership between Sylvan Learning and NMSI offers to bring STEM education to students who might not have other means of access," said John McAuliffe, CEO of Sylvan Learning. "Students need to gain early access to STEM and to become comfortable with the subjects at a young age because these skills are becoming the foundation of many careers."

Sylvan Learning also has a presence across the Dallas area, already serving students of all ages and academic levels.