

“SPRING FORWARD: Set your clock ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 a.m.”



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

March 10 - 16, 2022

# Kamala Harris marks ‘Bloody Sunday’ anniversary in Selma

By KIM CHANDLER



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks near the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on the anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” a landmark event of the civil rights movement, Sunday, March 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

Vice President Kamala Harris marches on the Edmund Pettus Bridge after speaking in Selma, Ala., on the anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” a landmark event of the civil rights movement, Sunday, March 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris visited Selma, Alabama, on Sunday to commemorate a defining moment in the fight for equal voting rights, even congressional efforts to restore the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act have

Continue Selma Page 4

## Texas county finds 10K uncounted ballots from primary day



HOUSTON (AP) — About 10,000 mail ballots were tabulated but not counted in Texas’ most populous county on the day of last week’s election, officials said, adding to the delay in determining some winners in the nation’s first primary of the 2022 midterms.

Election officials in Harris County, home to Houston, said late Saturday that an “oversight” led to 10,000 ballots not being counted. Those votes — 6,000 Democratic and 4,000 Republican — will be added to the final tallies Tuesday.

“While the votes were

scanned into our tabulation computer, they were not transferred and counted as a part of the unofficial final results as they should have been,” the Harris County Elections Office said in a statement.

The AP will tabulate the additional votes from Harris County and update its vote count.

The March 1 primary was the first statewide election that took place in Texas under new, tighter voting laws. Thousands of mail ballots were rejected statewide for not having the new, required identification.



## Superintendent Hinojosa marks Dallas ISD’s bold progress in his final State of the District address

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## Harris heads to Poland amid turbulence over jets for Ukraine

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## ‘The best of us’: Biden promises improved care for veterans

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## 1st trial in Capitol riot ends in guilty verdict on all counts

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and COLLEEN LONG

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Texas man was convicted on Tuesday of storming the U.S. Capitol with a holstered handgun, a milestone victory for federal prosecutors in the first trial among hundreds of cases arising from last year’s riot.

A jury also convicted Guy Wesley Reffitt of obstructing Congress’ joint session to certify the Electoral College vote on Jan. 6, 2021, of interfering with police officers who were guarding the Capitol and of threatening his two teenage children if they reported him to law enforcement after the attack. Jurors deliberated about three hours and convicted him on all counts.

The verdict could be a bellwether for many other Capitol riot cases. It could give Justice Department prosecutors more leverage in plea negotiations and discourage other defendants from gambling on trials of their own.

Gregg Sofer, a former

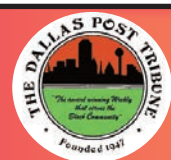
federal prosecutor who served as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Texas from October 2020 to February 2021, said before Reffitt’s trial started that it would be “the canary in the coal mine.”

“If you’re a defendant awaiting trial at this point, the canary just died,” said Sofer, now a partner at the law firm Husch Blackwell. “I do think it is likely to affect people’s perceptions about the likelihood of their success.”

Reffitt, 49, of Wylie, Texas, didn’t testify at his trial, which started last Wednesday. He showed little visible reaction to the verdict, but his face was covered by a mask.

Outside court, his wife Nicole said the verdict was “against all American people. If you’re going to be convicted on your First Amendment rights, all Americans should be wary.

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# Author Spreads A Little Kindness On First Stop Of “Kindness, It’s In You” Tour

(Dallas, TX – February 28, 2022) On Friday, February 18, award winning author Sharon Jones-Scaife kicked off her “Kindness, It’s In You” Tour with her first stop at Ruby Shaw Elementary in Mesquite, Texas. During her stop, Jones-Scaife read her best-selling book, “Kindness, It’s In You” to 400+ students and teachers, discussed acts of kindness and the rewards for being kind. Students participated in a fun, interactive presentation and game and received their very own signed copy of the book.

“Shaw Elementary was blessed to have Sharon Jones-Scaife present to our Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Her presentation was fully immersive and extremely interactive. Sharon connected with the entire audience using a Total Response System, in which all students were able to participate at the very same time, and she also held a Q & A that allowed for individual responses as well. Her Read Aloud was engaging and well planned, to align with her visual presentation,” said Kim Banuelos, principal - Shaw Elementary.

“Sharon Jones-Scaife did a great job of connecting with students from the moment they set foot in the room! I will definitely be looking to book Sharon again next year!” added Banuelos.

“I highly advise any school that is looking to book Sharon, to consider

purchasing her book(s) as well. Being able to hold a book from an author “you know” is truly a big moment for a child - one that brings reading and writing to life in a BIG WAY!” stated Banuelos.

Through this tour, Coffee Creek Media Group plans to change the world one community, one school, one student at a time by focusing on being kind and helpful toward others. “Ms. Sharon provided a wonderful, interactive presentation to our students. She was engaging and interesting as she read her book “Kindness, It’s In You” to our children and spoke of the importance of being kind in all situations. I love how she encouraged student participation by asking thoughtful questions, as well as graciously accepting student comments. I highly recommend having her to your school!” said Megan Van Vessem, Librarian - Shaw Elementary.

The “Kindness, It’s In You” Tour is based on Author/Illustrator Sharon Jones-Scaife’s book of the same name. In the book, featured character Haylie spreads kindness throughout her elementary school, showing even Gus, the meanest classmate ever, how being kind can make a difference. Written for kids ages 4 – 9, the book focuses on social emotional development and is the first in the “Haylie’s Inspirations” series. Additional titles in the series include: Respect, It’s In You, Thankfulness, It’s In You” and more.



Author Sharon Jones-Scaife at Shaw Elementary, Mesquite, Texas

“Refreshing + Inspiring with a call to action on how to make a difference in our world is how I would summarize Sharon’s Author presentation!!! Educators and professionals, invite Sharon Jones-Scaife to be part of your next assembly!! Her presentation was uplifting, inspiring, and interactive! Every student walked away with tangible examples on how to demonstrate acts of kindness in our world,” said Allison Ornelas, Teacher - Shaw Elementary.

Banuelos concluded by saying, “Thank you, Sharon Jones-Scaife, for being a wonderful advocate for students, and for literacy. Your message about kindness is much needed today, and was the absolute “cherry on top” of the presentation!”

Tour dates are still available and open to any school, library, or community/recreation center in Texas and beyond. Principals, assistant principals, librarians, teachers, and others are invited to book a stop for their students or community.

Coffee Creek Media specializes in children’s books that reflect diversity. Statistics show that only 12 percent of children’s books feature Black main characters and less than half of children’s books written about Black main characters are actually written by Black authors. Coffee Creek seeks to balance the scales. So whether you’re a teacher trying to create an inclusive classroom, a parent trying to raise a kind and civil child, or you want to introduce a different worldview to children, Coffee Creek Media offers plenty of options through their publishing catalogue and through the kindness tour.

For more information and to book your tour date, contact Coffee Creek Media Group at (214) 566-1146, the publicity department at (972) 442-6000 or email [contact@coffeecreekmediagroup.com](mailto:contact@coffeecreekmediagroup.com)

Information about other titles from Jones-Scaife can be found at <https://www.coffeecreekmediagroup.com>.

# Congress passes Emmett Till bill to make lynching hate crime

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress gave final approval Monday to legislation that for the first time would make lynching a federal hate crime in the U.S., sending the bill to President Joe Biden to sign into law.

Years in the making, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act is among some 200 bills that have been introduced over the past century that have tried to ban lynching in America.

It is named for the Black

teenager whose brutal killing in Mississippi in 1955 — and his mother’s insistence on an open funeral casket to show the world what had been done to her child — became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights era.

“After more than 200 failed attempts to outlaw lynching, Congress is finally succeeding in taking a long overdue action by passing the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act,” said



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The bill would make it possible to prosecute a crime as a lynching when a conspiracy to commit a hate crime results in death or serious bodily injury, according to the bill’s champion, Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill. The maximum sentence under the Anti-Lynching Act is 30 years.

The House overwhelmingly approved a similar measure in 2020, but it was blocked in the Senate.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly approved a revised version and the

Senate passed the bill unanimously late Monday.

“Lynching is a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy,” said Rush.

The congressman said passage of the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act “sends a clear and emphatic message that our nation will no longer ignore this shameful chapter of our history and that the full force of the U.S. federal government will always be brought to bear against those who commit this heinous act.”

# ‘The best of us’: Biden promises improved care for veterans

By JOSH BOAK

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday said U.S. veterans were the “backbone, the spine, the sinew” of the nation, as he pushed for better help for members of the military who face health problems, including after exposure to burn pits.

“You’re the best of us,” Biden said.

For the president, the issue is very personal. In last week’s State of the Union address, Biden raised the prospect of whether being near the chemicals from pits where military waste was incinerated in Iraq led to the death of his son Beau.

“We don’t know for sure if a burn pit was the cause of his brain cancer, or the diseases of so many of our troops,” Biden said in the speech. “But I’m committed to finding out everything we can.”

Biden traveled with Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough to Texas, where they visited a VA clinic in Fort Worth. There, he met with veterans, including one who was stationed near a pit and later had six weeks of treatment and chemotherapy. Biden greeted a veteran named John, who was seated

in a wheelchair, asking him, “How are you?”

“Good to see you man, let me say hi to you,” Biden said, walking over to shake his hand.

At the Tarrant County Resource Connection, the president was joined by about 150 people, including local elected officials and community leaders, Republican Rep. Jake Ellzey and Democratic Rep. Colin Allred.

“There is a price to be paid for every conflict we’re in,” said Ellzey, adding that the country had an obligation to care for veterans and the families any killed in action leave behind.

Biden begged veterans to ask for help when they need it, noting that 17 veterans die by suicide every day, more than in combat.

“They shouldn’t have to ask for a damn thing,” he said of veterans who suffer because of their service. “It should be, ‘I’ve got a problem’ and we should say, ‘How can I help?’”

“We’re asking you to tell us. Tell us what your needs are. Don’t be ashamed. We owe you.”

He said there should be expanded access to health

care and benefits for veterans affected by exposure to harmful substances, toxins and other environmental hazards, including those from burn pits, plots of land where the military destroyed tires, batteries, medical waste and other materials. Biden said the U.S. government made terrible mistakes during the Vietnam War, when troops returning home suffered mental health problems and physical symptoms that took years to link to Agent Orange.

He refuses to make the same mistakes with those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

“When our troops came home, the fittest among them ... too many of them were not the same,” suffering unexplained breathing problems and other issues, he said.

“We don’t know yet enough about the connection between burn pits” and the diseases veterans faced, Biden said, adding he was committed to finding out more, increasing funding to study the relationships.

“We’re following the science,” he said, but he urged vets to sign up for the VA burn pit registry, and make

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sure they know about benefits available to them.

Fort Worth City Councilmember Elizabeth Beck, deployed as a sergeant to Taji, Iraq, said she coughed every day, expelling black matter, and suspected it came from the burn pit that smoldered daily. It took her 17 years to apply for help because she couldn’t bear the red tape.

“We don’t want to ask for anything we don’t deserve,” she said of her fellow veterans. “We aren’t asking for something that we shouldn’t

have. We are simply asking not to have to fight again.”

Biden, a Democrat, also called on Congress to send him a bill that protects veterans who face health consequences after burn pit exposure. He said he’d sign it immediately. The House last week passed a bill that would provide VA health care to millions of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who meet that criteria.

Biden’s son Beau was a major in a Delaware Army National Guard unit that deployed to Iraq in 2008.

The two-term Delaware attorney general was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2013 and died two years later at age 46.

It is difficult to link toxic exposure to an individual’s medical condition. The concentration of toxic material is often well below the levels needed for immediate poisoning. Still, the VA’s own hazardous materials exposure website, along with scientists and doctors, say military personnel do face risks and dangers after being exposed to contaminants.



# Church Directory

**Carver Heights Baptist Church**  
2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216  
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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3611 Latimer Street  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
214-428-2990  
www.mountmoriahdallas.org

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

**Email address**  
stphillipsmbc@att.net

**Schedule of Activities**


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Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

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**Sammie Berry**  
Minister

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**Sunday Worship**  
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**Tuesday Song Practice**  
7:00 p.m.


**Wednesday Bible Class**  
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Ben Myers  
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**Elders:**  
Frederick Green  
Raymond Hart  
Otis Idlebird, Jr.  
Jason Moseley  
David Phillips, Jr.

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Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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## "A BOLD AND POWERFUL DISCOURSE BY STEPHEN"

Acts 7: 1-60

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this chapter, we find Stephen, a dynamic servant-leader, who was endowed with being "full of faith, and power and did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8), rehearsing the history of the nation before the Sanhedrin council. In rehearsing their history, he charges them with being guilty of resisting and rebelling against God. In our day, we need more Stephens, those who would declare boldly the truth of God's

word. Stephen, in this address, boldly tells the Sanhedrin council that they are guilty of being betrayers and murderers of Jesus. Of course, the truth hurts and this truth will lead to Stephen being stoned to death. This council had already accused him (Acts 6:13-14), but Stephen makes no attempt to defend himself. Stephen, however, reviews the history of the nation of Israel beginning with Abraham.

In verse 2-8, Stephen rehearses the call of Abraham, a man of faith, called from Ur of the Chaldees. He was called out of idolatry. You will recall that God called Abram and promised him a land, seed and a blessing (Genesis 12:1-3). After rehearsing the history of Abraham, Stephen moved to God's dealing with Joseph, who was sold into slavery because of his brothers' envy and hatred; however, God was definitely with

him (Genesis 37:23-28; 39:2-3, 23). To exhibit their disdain for Joseph his brother cast him into a pit and Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver. Now, Joseph is in Egypt. And while in Egypt, he was lied on by Potiphar's wife because Joseph did not give in to her advances and he went to prison (Genesis 39:7-20). While in prison, the butler and the baker had a dream, and Joseph interprets their dreams, telling the butler that he will be restored; but the chief baker will be hanged (Genesis chapter 40). God was definitely behind the great movements of Joseph's life in Egypt, for after interpreting an awesome dream of Pharaoh in Genesis chapter 41, Joseph is elevated to a position of being second to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:38-41). God

will indeed exalt you in due season; we need to remain humble and wait on the Lord to elevate us! Furthermore, Stephen continues to demonstrate that God was orchestrating the changes in Israel's history by reviewing the time of the great emancipator, Moses (Acts 7:17-43). The illustrious career of Moses can be divided from three forty year periods: forty years Moses spends in the Egyptian Court; forty years he spends in Midian; and forty years he spends leading the children of Israel. God commissioned Moses at the age of eighty to lead His people from Egyptian slavery. Through a series of ten plagues, Pharaoh releases God's children. Faced with a crisis of crossing the Red Sea, God provided a miracle for His people and even provided for them in the wilderness

(v. 36). Moses even prophesied that Christ will come as a great Prophet (v. 37). Continuing to review God's historical dealings with His people, Stephen mentioned both the tabernacle (vv. 44-46) and the temple (vv. 47-50) as important aspects of Israel's illustrious history. In verses 51-53, Stephen charges the Sanhedrin of rejecting the message of God through Jesus Christ. When one has rejected the message of God through Jesus Christ, certainly one is blame worthy. In verses 54-60, the religious figures were furious at Stephen's message and even stoned Stephen, calling upon God. In the midst of being stoned, Stephen asked the Lord to receive his spirit and not to lay this sin to the blame of the Jews (vv. 59-60).

**May God Bless!**



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Continued: Page 1

### Kamala Harris marks 'Bloody Sunday' anniversary in Selma

faltered. Under a blazing blue sky, Harris linked arms with rank-and-file activists from the civil rights movement and led thousands across the bridge where, on March 7, 1965, white state troopers attacked Black voting rights marchers attempting to cross. The images of violence at the Edmund Pettus Bridge — originally named for a Confederate general — shocked the nation and helped galvanize support for passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Harris called the site hallowed ground where people fought for the “most fundamental right of American citizenship: the right to vote.”

“Today, we stand on this bridge at a different time,” Harris said in a speech before the gathered crowd. “We again, however, find ourselves caught in between. Between injustice and justice. Between disappointment and determination. Still in a fight to form a more perfect union. And nowhere is that more clear than when it comes to the ongoing fight to secure the freedom to vote.”

The nation’s first female vice president — as well as the first African American and Indian American in the role —

spoke of marchers whose “peaceful protest was met with crushing violence. They were kneeling when the state troopers charged. They were praying when the billy clubs struck.”

Police beat and tear-gassed the marchers, fracturing the skull of young activist John Lewis, a lion of the civil rights movement who went on to long and celebrated career as a Georgia congressman.

President Joe Biden on Sunday renewed his call for the passage of voting legislation, saying the groundbreaking 1965 Voting Rights Act “has been weakened not by brute force, but by insidious court decisions.”

The proposed legislation is named for Lewis, who died in 2020, and is part of a broader elections package that collapsed in the U.S. Senate earlier this year.

“In Selma, the blood of John Lewis and so many other courageous Americans sanctified a noble struggle. We are determined to honor that legacy by passing legislation to protect the right to vote and uphold the integrity of our elections,” Biden said in a statement.

Democrats have been unsuccessfully trying to update the landmark law and pass additional measures to make it more con-

venient for people to vote. A key provision of the law was tossed out by a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2013.

Among those gathered Sunday were rank-and-file activists from the 1965 march. Harris walked across the bridge beside Charles Mauldin, who was sixth in line behind Lewis on Bloody Sunday and was beaten with a night stick.

Two women who fled the violence said having a Black woman as vice president seemed unimaginable 57 years ago.

“That’s why we marched,” said Betty Boynton, the daughter-in-law of voting rights activist Amelia Boynton.

“I was at the tail end and all of the sudden I saw these horses. Oh my goodness, and all of the sudden ... I saw smoke. I didn’t know what tear gas was. They were beating people,” Boynton said recalling Bloody Sunday.

But Boynton said the anniversary is tempered by fears of the impact of new voting restrictions being enacted.

“And now they are trying to take our voting rights from us. I wouldn’t think in 2022 we would have to do all over again what we did in 1965,” Boynton said.

Ora Bell Shannon, 90,

of Selma, was a young mother during the march and ran from the bridge with her children. Ahead of Bloody Sunday, she and other Black citizens stood in line for days at a time trying to register to vote in the then white-controlled city, facing impossible voter tests and long lines.

“They knew you wouldn’t be able to pass the test,” Shannon recalled.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 gutted a portion of the 1965 law that required certain states with a history of discrimination in voting, mainly in the South, to get U.S. Justice Department approval before changing the way they hold elections.

The supporters of the end of preclearance said the requirement — while necessary in the 1960s — was no longer needed. Voting rights activists have warned the end of preclearance is emboldening states to pass a new wave of voting restrictions. The proposed Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act would restore the preclearance requirement and put nationwide standards for how elections operate — such as making Election Day a national holiday and allowing early voting nationwide.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### One-Year Extension of the South Dallas/Fair Park GoLink Pilot Service

The DART Board of Directors has authorized a public hearing on the proposal to extend the South Dallas/Fair Park GoLink Pilot Service to January 2023 and expand operating hours to 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The South Dallas zone is one of 30 throughout the DART service area providing on-demand service with a variety of vehicles.

#### PRE-PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**  
 TR Hoover Community Development Corporation  
 5106 Bexar Street, Dallas, TX 75215

**Saturday, March 19, 2022, at noon**  
 DART Board Room  
 1401 Pacific Avenue (Akard Station), Dallas, TX 75202

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**  
 DART Board Room  
 1401 Pacific Avenue (Akard Station), Dallas, TX 75202

#### Process for Receiving Comments

Individuals wishing to speak at the public hearing should contact DART Community Relations at 214-749-2598 to register. In addition, written comments received by noon the day of the hearing will become part of the official record. If you wish to attend the hearing and need sign interpretation, please notify DART 24 hours in advance by calling the TTY number, 214-749-3628. A Braille or taped version of the information will be made available upon request. Written comments should be sent to:

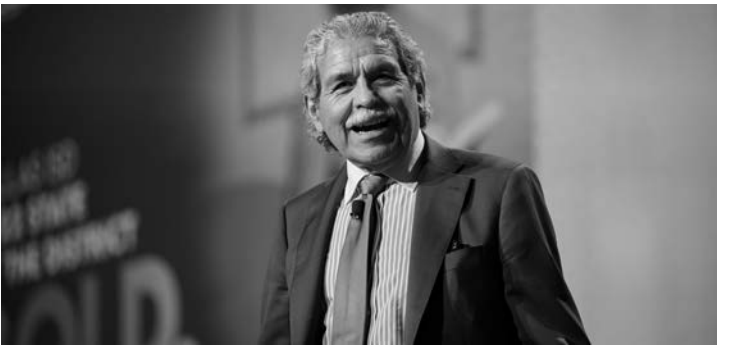
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**South Dallas/Fair Park GoLink Pilot Service Extension**  
**P.O. Box 660163, Dallas, TX 75266-9672**

For Additional Information, visit DART.org, or contact DART Community Relations at 214-749-2598.



## Superintendent Hinojosa marks Dallas ISD’s bold progress in his final State of the District address

By The HUB/Photo courtesy/Dallas ISD



DALLAS — In front of a 900-person crowd made up of principals, business executives, community leaders and parents, Superintendent Michael Hinojosa detailed Dallas ISD’s bold progress made over the past few years.

The Dallas Education Foundation and Dallas ISD teamed up to host the State of the District on March 4. With Hinojosa set to depart Dallas ISD after 42 years in education, the event showcased the progress and gains made during his 13 years leading the district as superintendent.

The event kicked off with a dynamic performance by students from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual

and Performing Arts, and the two most recent winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition then introduced the ceremonies.

Leaders from the Dallas ISD Teen Board reflected on their journey and future career paths. Pamela Pope Lee of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP, the State of the District presenting sponsor, talked about being a proud graduate of South Oak Cliff High School and how her teachers and community supported her education journey.

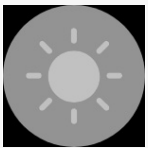
In a surprise close to the event, it was announced that Hinojosa’s jersey will be retired in celebration of his tenure as Dallas ISD superintendent.



# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Mar. 10



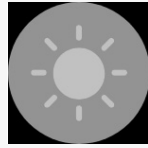
H - 69°  
L - 40°

Friday, Mar. 11



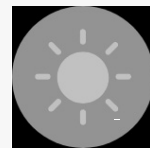
H - 40°  
L - 28°  
40%

Saturday, Mar. 12



H - 51°  
L - 38°

Sunday, Mar. 13



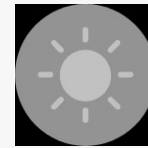
H - 65°  
L - 49°

Monday, Mar. 14



H - 76°  
L - 47°

Tuesday, Mar. 15



H - 77°  
L - 56°

Wednesday, Mar. 16



H - 78°  
L - 57°

## Russia's arrest of Brittney, Griner WNBA basketball star from Houston, adds to escalating global conflict

By Lomi Kriel, The Texas Tribune and ProPublica



Brittney Griner, of the United States Women's Basketball team, during the gold-medal match against Japan at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in Saitama, Japan on Aug. 8, 2021. Credit: REUTERS/Phil Noble

The athlete, who is Black and gay, was detained by Putin's regime, which has stoked nationalism and homophobia and is admired by some in America's far right.

HOUSTON — As Russia's invasion of Ukraine intensifies, the former Soviet power announced on Saturday that it detained an American basketball player from Houston last month, the latest in the quickly worsening relations between Russia and the United States.

Brittney Griner, a Baylor University graduate and seven-time WNBA All-Star center for the Phoenix Mercury, was arrested at Sheremetyevo International Airport near Moscow after arriving from New York in February with what Russian officials said were vape cartridges containing hashish oil in her luggage.

The Russian Federal Customs Service said it had filed the drug charge, which

can carry a prison sentence of up to 10 years. The Russian news agency TASS identified Griner as the person who had been arrested. Many WNBA players compete in Russia, where salaries are higher, during the American league's off-season. Griner has played for the Russian team UMMC Ekaterinburg since at least 2014.

The WNBA could not be reached Saturday and neither could Griner's family. But her agent, Lindsay Kagawa Colas, told CBS News that they are aware of her case.

The agent added: "As this is an ongoing legal matter, we are not able to comment further on the specifics of her case but can confirm that as we work to get her home, her mental and physical health remain our primary concern."

The move by President Vladimir Putin's administration likely escalates the ongoing conflict between Russia and the West. On

Saturday, the State Department issued a travel advisory urging Americans in Russia to leave "immediately," citing "arbitrary enforcement of local laws. The advisory warned that "the U.S. Embassy has severe limitations on its ability to assist U.S. citizens" who stay.

Asked about Griner's detention, the State Department said it was aware, but did not detail what it has done to help since she was first detained three weeks ago, or why the arrest only now came to light.

"Whenever a U.S. citizen is arrested overseas, we stand ready to provide all appropriate consular services," a spokesperson wrote in a statement.

Russia raised global alarm as its troops moved into Ukraine last month in the largest military attack in Europe since World War II. Putin said the goal was to demilitarize and "denazify"

Ukraine, which has about double the population of Texas, but a similar landmass.

Experts said Russia's announcement of Griner's arrest might not only serve as a distraction from its failing military attacks in Ukraine, but also send a message that Americans are not above the law.

They cited concerns about whether Griner actually committed the crimes of which she stands accused. Even if she did, experts said, the relatively minor drug offenses hardly called for a 10-year sentence. It was not clear what law would justify that potential sentence; Russia's criminal justice system, much like China's, is very opaque.

"What this person did is such a small thing compared to what we're seeing in the Ukraine," said Richard Stoll, who specializes in international conflict at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy in Houston.

"There's no equivalence at all here."

Griner's chances of being freed quickly seem slim, Stoll said, describing her as a pawn "of the power structure."

From the perspective of Russian officials, he said, "it's like, well, it's unfortunate for this person, but this is a card we can play against the United States."

The Ukrainian military has overperformed in its battle with Russia, which so far has failed both militarily and from a public relations standpoint, said Joe Barnes, an international oil expert at Rice University, who along with other experts said that Putin was likely behind the decision. The U.S. and European Union have levied some of the harshest sanctions against Russia in recent international history.

"Putin has pushed himself into a corner," Barnes said. "The U.S. Embassy is asking American citizens to leave Russia at least in part because of fear of harassment. So that all fits into the pattern."

Griner's likely penalty in this context is almost certainly "unwarranted," Barnes added.

"It's terrible," he said. "But I think it's about Number 500 on President Biden's list of priorities," given Washington's debate over no-fly zones in Ukraine and possibilities of oil sanctions. It has added to a global crisis that promises to impact Texans by increasing prices at the pump and potentially stoking heightened activity in the state's oil fields as the world searches for alternatives to tainted Russian supply.

Griner, who graduated from Nimitz High School in Houston, attended Baylor University in Waco on a basketball scholarship. As a freshman, her 223 blocked shots set the all-time single-season record, establishing

her as one of the greatest shot blockers in women's basketball history.

A spokesperson for Baylor University's Department of Athletics, Krista Pirtle, called the arrest alarming.

"Our foremost concern is for her safety and well-being during this difficult time in Russia and her eventual safe return to the United States," Pirtle said.

In 2013, Griner was the Number 1 overall pick at the WNBA Draft, and publicly discussed being lesbian soon after. Under Putin, the Kremlin has often engaged in homophobic persecution to assert his regime's control and to portray homosexuality as part of Western decadence. Putin has become a growing figure of admiration for some far-right Americans who associate him with white Christian nationalism. In a political conference last month in Florida, for example, far-right extremist Nick Fuentes asked for a round of applause for Russia.

Former President Donald Trump often expressed sympathy toward Russia and to Putin, a stance that has divided the Republican Party. His vice president, Mike Pence, on Friday said there was no room in the GOP for "apologists for Putin," a statement widely interpreted as a rebuke of Trump.

In an interview with ESPN last fall, Griner said she opened up about her sexuality because she didn't want anybody to look into the mirror "and not liking what you see."

"It's not like I ever told anybody I wasn't gay, but I wasn't giving everybody my whole authentic self," she said. "I feel like I came out to myself and the world at the same time."

This article originally appeared in *The Texas Tribune* at <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/03/05/russia-brittney-griner-arrest/>.

## Q&A: Forecasters say gasoline prices likely to remain high

By DAVID KOENIG

DALLAS (AP) — Gasoline prices have smashed a 2008 record and are likely to head even higher, further fueling inflation and hitting consumers and businesses that are still coming to grips with the pandemic.

The national average topped \$4.17 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, and several states on each coast could soon

join California in the \$5-and-up club.

Prices at the pump have been rising for more than a year, and analysts expect further increases after President Joe Biden announced that the United States will ban imports of Russian oil to punish Russia more severely for invading Ukraine.

As painful as this week's prices are, they are still not

the highest that Americans have paid when you consider inflation. In today's dollars, that 2008 record of \$4.10 a gallon would be equal to about \$5.24.

A look at how we got here, and what it means for American households:

### WHEN DID PRICES START RISING?

After averaging \$2.69 a

gallon in 2019, U.S. gasoline prices collapsed as COVID-19 forced offices and businesses to close in early 2020. By late April 2020, a gallon sold for under \$1.90. Prices have mostly risen since then, as demand for energy rebounded, global production failed to keep pace, and inventories shrank.

### WHY ARE PRICES SO HIGH?

It boils down to supply and demand. The world consumes nearly 100 million barrels of oil a day on average. Producers cut spending

on exploration and production during the pandemic, and they have been slow to ramp back up. Some producers say they face labor and parts shortages.

The benchmark price for U.S. oil was around \$125 a barrel in afternoon trading Tuesday, while the international standard, Brent crude, was above \$130. Of course, consumers didn't mind when crude was below \$20 at the start of the pandemic.

"Oil companies don't set the market prices; people do, by filling up their tanks," says Patrick De Haan, petroleum analyst for GasBuddy, which tracks gasoline prices

around the U.S.

### HOW MUCH IS DUE TO RUSSIA'S WAR?

Analysts say that nearly the entire rise of the last week — about 55 cents a gallon nationwide, on average — can be linked to anticipation that eventually western countries would ban Russian crude, further shrinking their already tight supplies.

"The U.S. doesn't need Russian oil per se, but the world and particularly Europe are dependent on it,"

Continue **Gas** Page 7





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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Civil rights leader Andrew Young, turning 90 keeps up fight

By SUDHIN THANAWALA

ATLANTA (AP) — As he approaches 90, civil rights icon Andrew Young is turning to his late friend and colleague, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., for inspiration.

During the civil rights struggle, King would say that “we probably won’t make it to 50,” Young recalled in a January opinion column in The Atlanta Journal Constitution. “But those who do have got to make sure to make it to 100, because there’s a whole lot of work to be done.”

Young will celebrate his 90th birthday this month with a string of events that continue his long fight for equity and inclusion. Over four days starting Wednesday, the former congressman, United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor will deliver a sermon about harmony, attend a walk aimed at fostering unity and host a gala to raise funds for economic development and food security.

Young believes the nation is more divided today than in the 1960s, said Gaurav Kumar, president of the Andrew J. Young Foundation. The theme for the events is therefore “peace and reconciliation.”

Kumar called Young’s life an “ocean of peace” and said the goal of the birthday celebration is to showcase Young’s accom-

plishments and inspire younger generations.

Young is among the last surviving members of King’s inner circle. He served as executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group that King founded, and was with King when he was assassinated in 1968 at the age of 39.

Young went on to become the first Black person from Georgia sent to Congress since Reconstruction when he was elected to the U.S. House in 1972. President Jimmy Carter later appointed him ambassador to the United Nations, where he served until his resignation in 1979 amid public uproar over a clandestine meeting with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

As mayor of Atlanta in the 1980s, Young is credited with boosting the city’s stature. Atlanta hosted the Democratic Convention in 1988 and then the Summer Olympics in 1996. Young used his international reputation to help Atlanta beat out other cities for the games.

“There would have not been the Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia, had it not been for Andrew Young,” said Billy Payne, who led the committee responsible for organizing the event. Payne added, “He saw in the Olympic



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

effort the ability to bring our city together in a way that we could serve as a shining example for the rest of the world.”

Payne and Kumar spoke on a Zoom call in February that was organized to promote Young’s birthday events. Ernie Suggs, author of an upcoming book about Young, was also on the call and described Young as the type of person who “is everywhere, knows everybody.”

“Each chapter of his life can be a whole life,” Suggs said.

For his birthday celebration, Young will deliver a “peace and reconciliation” sermon on Wednesday at Atlanta’s First Congregational Church, his home church since 1961. The 1.5-mile (2.4-kilometer) walk will begin at Centennial Olympic Park — a legacy of the 1996 games — in downtown Atlanta the next day. A statue of

Young will be unveiled as part of that event.

On Friday, an exhibit about Young’s life will open at Millennium Gate Museum, also in Atlanta. Suggs’ book — “The Many Lives of Andrew Young” — will also be available for sale. It includes stories Young shared, photos and an introduction by Carter.

The gala will take place on Saturday, Young’s actual birthday.

Young has acknowledged thinking about death as he approaches 90. On a podcast in January, he told former Obama administration strategist David Axelrod that King would often talk — and joke — about death, which King called the “ultimate democracy.”

“He said, ‘You don’t have anything to say about where you die or how you die,’” Young said. “Your only choice is what is it you’re willing to give your life for.”

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<b>Catholic Charities Santa Clara/Cardinal Farrell Community Center</b> 321 Calumet Ave., Dallas, 75211 Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<b>Janie C. Turner Recreation Center</b> 6424 Elam Rd., Dallas, 75217 Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	

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Continued:

1st trial in Capitol riot ends in guilty verdict on all counts



FILE - Violent insurrectionists, loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021. The first trial for one of the hundreds of Capitol riot prosecutions starts this week, with jury selection scheduled to begin on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, for the case against Guy Wesley Reffitt. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

This fight has just begun.”

She said her husband was being used as an example by the government. “You are all in danger,” she said.

In a statement after the verdict, U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves in Washington thanked the jury “for upholding the rule of law and for its diligent service in this case.”

During the trial’s closing arguments on Monday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Risa Berkower told jurors that Reffitt drove to Washington, D.C., intending to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden’s electoral victory. Reffitt proudly “lit the fire” that allowed others in a mob to overwhelm Capitol police officers near the Senate doors, the prosecutor said.

Reffitt was not accused of entering the Capitol building. Defense attorney William Welch said there is no evidence that Reffitt damaged property, used force or physically harmed anybody.

He will be sentenced June 8. He could receive 20 years in prison on the top charge alone, but he’s likely to face far less time behind bars. Other rioters have pleaded guilty; the longest sentence so far is five years and three months for Robert Palmer, a Florida man who pleaded guilty to attacking police officers at the Capitol.

The riot resulted in the deaths of five people, including a police officer. More than 100 officers were injured. Rioters caused over \$1 million in damage to the Capitol.

U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich presided over Reffitt’s trial. Trump nominated her in 2017.

Welch has said Reffitt worked as a rig manager and as a consultant in the petroleum industry before COVID-19 restrictions effectively shut down his business.

Jurors saw videos that captured the confrontation between a few Capitol police officers and a mob of people, including Reffitt, who approached them on the west side of the Capitol.

Reffitt was armed with a Smith & Wesson pistol in a holster on his waist, carrying zip-tie handcuffs and wearing body armor and a helmet equipped with a video camera when he advanced on police, according to prosecutors. He retreated after an officer pepper sprayed him in the face, but he waved on other rioters who ultimately breached the building, prosecutors said.

Before the crowd advanced, Reffitt used a megaphone to shout at police to step aside and to urge the mob to push forward and overtake officers. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Nestler said Reffitt played a leadership role that day.

During last Friday’s testimony, prosecutors zoomed in on a video image of Reffitt at the Capitol. FBI Special Agent Laird Hightower said the image shows “a silvery metallic linear object” in a holster protruding from under Reffitt’s jacket as he leaned forward.

Shauni Kerkhoff, who was one of the Capitol police officers who tried to repel Reffitt, said she launched pepperballs that didn’t stop him from advancing. She testified that Reffitt appeared to be leading the crowd up stairs toward police.

Reffitt’s 19-year-old son, Jackson, testified last Thursday that his father threatened him and his sister, then 16, after he drove home from Washington. Reffitt told his children they would be traitors if they reported him to authorities and said “traitors get shot,” Jackson Reffitt recalled.

He said the threat terrified him. His younger sister, Peyton, was listed as a possible government witness but didn’t testify. She said that she would talk more later on her own time, but: “Kids should never be used against the parents.”

Jackson Reffitt used a cellphone app to secretly record his father boasting about his role in the riot. Jurors heard excerpts of that family conversation.

Jackson Reffitt initially

contacted the FBI on Christmas Eve, less than two weeks before the riot, to report concerns about his father’s behavior and increasingly worrisome rhetoric. But the FBI didn’t respond until Jan. 6, after the riot erupted.

Another key witness, Rocky Hardie, said he and Reffitt were members of “Texas Three Percenters” militia group. The Three Percenters militia movement refers to the myth that only 3% of Americans fought in the Revolutionary War against the British.

Hardie drove from Texas to Washington with Reffitt. He testified that both of them were armed with holstered handguns when they attended then-President Donald Trump’s “Stop the Steal” rally before the riot erupted. Reffitt also took an AR-15 rifle to Washington but left it locked up in his car, Hardie said.

Hardie said Reffitt talked about dragging lawmakers out of the Capitol and replacing them with people who would “follow the Constitution.” Hardie also said Reffitt gave him two pairs of zip-tie cuffs in case they needed to detain anybody.

Reffitt was arrested less than a week after the riot. The FBI found a handgun in a holster on a nightstand in the defendant’s bedroom when they searched his home near Dallas.

More than 750 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the riot. Over 220 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanors, and over 110 of them have been sentenced. Approximately 90 others have trial dates.

Sofer, the former top federal prosecutor in the Western District of Texas, said Reffitt’s trial shows the government has “accurate, good, reliable video that jurors are willing to pay attention to.”

“You have to look at it and say this is extremely worrisome if you’re a defendant,” he said. “The flip side is the government can feel good that it’s in the driver’s seat pretty strongly here.”

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Continued Gas Page 5

WHEN WILL PRICES EASE?

says Tom Kloza, an analyst for the Oil Price Information Service.

According to government figures, the U.S. imported 245 million barrels of oil from Russia last year, or 8% of all U.S. oil imports. That is less than the United States imported from Canada or Mexico but more than it took from Saudi Arabia.

Normally fuel prices rise in spring and summer, as Americans drive and fly more. Demand could also get a boost as countries continue to shed their COVID-19 restrictions. Those trends suggest that pump prices are heading higher, with demand continuing to outstrip supply. “It’s not going to be a good summer for motorists,” De Haan says.

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**Michael Sorrell,**  
President, Paul Quinn College

## PROGRAM TIMES

8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Daily

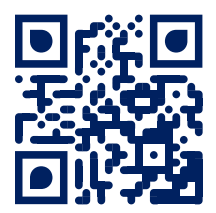
## PROGRAM DATES

**Session I:** June 13 - July 1, 2022

**Session II:** July 6 - July 22, 2022

## SESSION TUITION

**\$500** (three weeks of programming)



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## Harris heads to Poland amid turbulence over jets for Ukraine

By AAMER MADHANI and LISA MASCARO



Saul Loeb/Pool via AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris' trip to Warsaw to thank Poland for taking in hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion took an unexpected turn before she even left Washington. She'll be parachuting into the middle of unexpected diplomatic turbulence over fighter jets.

The Polish government on Tuesday came out with a plan to transfer its Russian-made fighter planes to a U.S. military base in Germany, with the expectation that the planes would then be handed over to Ukrainian pilots trying to fend off Russian forces. In turn, the U.S. would supply Poland with U.S.-made jets with "corresponding capabilities."

But the Poles didn't run that idea past the Biden administration before going public with it, and the Pentagon quickly dismissed the idea as not tenable. Warplanes flying from a U.S. and NATO base into airspace

contested with Russia would raise the risk of the war expanding beyond Ukraine.

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Wednesday stressed that Poland's support to Ukraine has been defensive and that any decision whether to make the MiG-29 planes available to Ukraine would be up to the U.S. and NATO — and then only if all nations agreed.

"Poland is not a side in this war," he said, adding, "Such a serious decision like handing over planes must be unanimous and unequivocally taken by all of the North Atlantic Alliance."

The plane issue provided a rare moment of disharmony in what has been a largely united effort by NATO allies to assist Ukraine without getting embroiled in a wider war with Russia.

And it meant Harris was flying into fractious terrain Wednesday as she opens a two-day visit to Poland and Romania and tries to patch things up.

"This fighter jet situation is a messy deal, and Harris will have to go there and smooth things out," said Daniel Fried, who served as U.S. ambassador to Poland for President Bill Clinton and was a senior adviser in the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations. "There's plenty of discussion on the way ahead that needs to be had with the Poles that is better to have in an in-person conversation."

Harris is expected to continue talks with the Poles about getting fighter jets to the Ukrainians during her visit to Warsaw, according to a senior administration official who previewed the trip on the condition of anonymity. The matter remains a priority to the Biden administration, the official added.

Harris is slated to meet on Thursday with Polish President Andrzej Sebastian Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki as well as with Ukrainians who have fled to Poland. She'll also meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau while in Warsaw. Trudeau has been in Europe this week meeting with Ukraine allies.

Harris will travel on Friday to Bucharest, where she's to meet Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

The vice president also is expected to use the meetings in Poland and Romania to underscore the U.S. commitment to the NATO alliance and the need for continued humanitarian and military

assistance for Ukraine. She'll also highlight the need for allies to continue their close coordination.

Biden has applauded Poland and other eastern European countries for stepping up in the midst of what's become an enormous humanitarian crisis that is only growing. Some 2 million people have fled Ukraine, and more than half of the refugees have arrived in Poland.

Biden on Tuesday said he was committed to helping Ukraine's neighbors assist refugees. He has deployed 4,700 additional U.S. troops to Poland to bolster the defense of the eastern flank NATO ally.

"I've made it clear that the United States will share in the responsibility of caring for the refugees so the costs do not fall entirely on the European countries bordering Ukraine," Biden said. He had been looking to Congress to pass a \$14 billion aid package to assist Ukraine and its eastern European allies.

Hours after Biden spoke, Poland blindsided the White House with its proposal.

Victoria Nuland, undersecretary of state for political affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that she saw the Polish government's announcement as she was driving to Capitol Hill to testify.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. called it "curious" for Poland to announce its plan "without alerting us first."

## Mayor Johnson's statement on the death of former state Rep. Sam Hudson

DALLAS — Mayor Eric Johnson on Tuesday issued the following statement on the death of former 12-term state Representative Sam Hudson:

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of Sam Hudson, who I considered to be a friend and a mentor. Representative Hudson epitomized what it meant to be a public servant. He provided me with my first glimpse into public service by hiring me as an intern in his district office when I was a high school student. I am forever grateful for that opportunity, and I

loved working for him. He was one of the kindest people I have ever known — a true gentleman. I admired him so greatly that I exclusively wore bow ties — his trademark look — for a time while I was in high school. When I was elected to represent District 100, which he had served so gracefully for 24 years, I tried to live up to the example he set. Our city and our state are better because of his time in the Texas Legislature, and I, like many others, are better for having known him. May he rest in peace."

08.27

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