

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 14.



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 73 NUMBER 27

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

March 11 - 17, 2021

# Explosive Harry, Meghan interview

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS



This image provided by Harpo Productions shows Prince Harry, left, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, speaking about expecting their second child during an interview with Oprah Winfrey. "Oprah with Meghan and Harry: A CBS Primetime Special" airs March 7 as a two-hour exclusive primetime special on the CBS Television Network. (Joe Pugliese/Harpo Productions via AP)



Newspapers are displayed for sale outside a shop in London, Monday, March 8, 2021. Britain's royal family is absorbing the tremors from a sensational television interview by Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex, in which the couple said they encountered racist attitudes and a lack of support that drove Meghan to thoughts of suicide. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry and Meghan's explosive TV interview divided people around the world on Monday, rocking an institution that is struggling to modernize with claims of racism and callousness toward a woman struggling with suicidal thoughts.

During the two-hour appearance with Oprah Winfrey, Harry also revealed the problems had ruptured relations with his father, Prince Charles, and brother, Prince William,

illuminating the depth of the family divisions that led the couple to step away from royal duties and move to California last year.

The palace has not yet responded to the interview, in which Meghan described feeling so isolated and miserable inside the royal family that she had suicidal thoughts and said a member of the family had "concerns" about the color of her unborn child's skin.

Continue **Meghan** Page 4

# Mayor Johnson issues face covering order

Mayor Eric Johnson on Thursday signed a new emergency regulation mandating face coverings inside all city buildings.

Face coverings have been required inside city buildings under a statewide mask mandate issued by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. But Abbott on Tuesday announced he would lift all statewide restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the governor's order specifically states that "no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering," the order does not preclude "businesses or other establishments," including local governments, from implementing mask requirements in their buildings.

The mayor's new regulation — issued pursuant to the state of local disaster declared on March 12, 2020 — takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 10, 2021, when the governor's statewide mask mandate expires.

Masks are one of the most effective tools we have for halting COVID-19's spread and mutations," Mayor Johnson said. "We have to do all that we can do to get people to wear face coverings while they are around others because masking up saves lives.

"We have made great progress in our fight against COVID-19, and I am excited to return to normalcy. And we will get there. Vaccinations are ramping up, and the end is in sight. But we cannot afford to let down our guard yet."

Mayor Johnson initially announced his intention to issue the emergency regulation on Thursday while speaking at a news conference at the city's new vaccination hub outside The Potter's House in southern Dallas.

The mayor is encouraging businesses and other establishments to follow suit by continuing to require their employees, customers, and visitors to wear face coverings for now.

# Amanda Gorman says she was racially profiled

By The Associated Press



(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, FILE)

NEW YORK (AP) — Amanda Gorman, the 22-year-old poet who captured hearts at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, posted to social media that she was followed home by a security guard who demanded to know where she lived because she "looked sus-

picious." "I showed my keys & buzzed myself into my building," she tweeted of the incident Friday night. "He left, no apology. This is the reality of black girls: One day you're called an icon, the next day, a threat."

Gorman, the nation's youngest inaugural poet, lives in Los Angeles but did not specify where the encounter occurred. Her spokeswoman did not immediately return an email Saturday seeking additional comment.

The post was met with thousands of messages of support on Twitter and Continue **Gorman** Page 2

# Fully vaccinated people can gather without masks, CDC says

By MIKE STOBBE

NEW YORK (AP) — Fully vaccinated Americans can gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing, according to long-awaited guidance from federal health officials.

The recommendations also say that vaccinated people can come together in the same way — in a single household — with

people considered at low-risk for severe disease, such as in the case of vaccinated grandparents visiting healthy children and grandchildren.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the guidance Monday.

The guidance is designed to address a growing demand, as more adults have been getting

vaccinated and wondering if it gives them greater freedom to visit family members, travel, or do other things like they did before the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world last year.

"With more and more people vaccinated each day, we are starting to turn a corner," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky.

During a press briefing Monday, she called the guidance a "first step" toward restoring normalcy in how people come together. She said more activities would be ok'd for vaccinated individuals once caseloads and deaths decline, more Americans are vaccinated, and as more science emerges on

Continue **CDC** 4



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Black Americans Must Now Fight on All Fronts

By John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint



Dr. John Warren

While some of us are spending our time watching the news or wondering how we are going to survive the pandemic, now is the time to understand the battles we are in and determine what we must do individually and collectively.

Here are the issues: (1) We must be clear that we support a conviction in the George Floyd murder trial.

Nothing less is acceptable. We must voice our call for a conviction in all our media outlets. There can be no cover up or acquittal. (2) We must look closely at each state that has a Republican Governor or legislative majority seeking to pass voter suppression laws such as limiting days and times of voting, reducing ballot drop boxes and the number of precincts available in our communities. We can't wait to litigate. We must follow the example of the state of Georgia and register every voter possible, secure voter identification cards or help voters obtain them in advance of the state laws that are going to pass with Republican majorities in the legislatures and organize voters against

Republicans seeking office or re-election in 2022 so that they don't get a majority in the U.S. Congress or the U.S. Senate. Georgia set the example, now let's follow it in every state. (3) We must urge the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, H.R. 1. The Bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, we must now find the five or 10 votes needed in the Senate to add to the Democratic votes necessary for passage. Every Senate and Congressional District has people seeking to replace the incumbent. We must find those people and support them if they support us. The late Julian Bond once said, "No permanent friends, no permanent ene-

mies, just permanent interest." We must study the White Nationalists, and the Republicans who no longer care about the American people, only maintaining their "White Privilege" at the expense of the rest of America. In the midst of this, we must reassess our spending habits and our loyalties. We must know who financially supports those who are against voter participation, those who support police unfair treatment of Blacks, in particular, and people of color in general and those who oppose America helping the most needed and most vulnerable among us. It sounds like a big task, but we start where we live and build from there.

*Let's get busy.*

Continued Gorman Page 1

Instagram. She followed up her post with a second comment that said: "In a sense, he was right. I AM A THREAT: a threat to injustice, to inequality, to ignorance. Anyone who speaks the truth and walks with hope is an obvious and fatal danger to the powers that be. A threat and proud." Gorman became an instant sensation Jan. 20 when she recited her poem, "The Hill We Climb," at Biden's swearing-in. Writer Marieke Lucas Rijnveld announced on Twitter Friday Feb. 26, 2021, that she has handed back the assignment to translate American poet Amanda Gorman's work into Dutch, following criticism that a white author was selected to translate the works.

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### Parent company of Dallas Morning News seeks name change

DALLAS (AP) — The parent company of The Dallas Morning News announced Tuesday that it wants to change its name from A.H. Belo Corporation, citing its founder's association with the Confederacy. A.H. Belo's chairman, president and CEO, Robert W. Decherd, said during a conference call that the

company will ask shareholders in May to approve changing its name to DallasNews Corporation, The Dallas Morning News reported. A. H. Belo, who started the company in 1842, volunteered with the Confederate Army and rose to the rank of colonel. "We are keenly aware that the relationship of our

company's name to a person who figured prominently in the Confederate Army is the source of discomfort, even pain, for many of our fellow citizens," Decherd said. "And that is intolerable to the leaders of this enterprise." Decherd said the company wants to embrace "the social justice movement underway in America."

He emphasized the company's role as a civic leader in setting "high standards for diversity, equity and inclusion," including last summer, when The News promoted Leona Allen, a Dallas native and longtime editor, to deputy publisher, making her one of the highest-ranking Black female executives in the newspaper industry.

# 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**  
Missionary Baptist Church

3611 Latimer Street  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
214-428-2990  
www.mountmoriahdallas.org


**Sunday**  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Prayer Bible Fellowship 7:00 p.m.

**"Let's All Mount Up"**




**Rev. J. Calvin Smith**  
Pastor



**Pilgrim Rest**  
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1819 N. Washington Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75204  
(214) 823-7308  
www.pilgrimrestdallas.org

**Worship Opportunities**  
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
5th Sunday, Combined Worship: 10:00 am  
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3907-11 Bertrand Street  
Dallas, Texas 75210  
P. 214-421-9435  
F. 214-421-3324



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

**Sunday School**  
9:00 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
11:00 a.m.

**Monday Morning Worship**  
7:00 p.m.

**Prayer & Bible Study Meeting**  
7:00 p.m.

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Dallas, TX 75237  
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6000 Singing Hills Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75241  
P. 214-374-6631



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

**Email address**  
stphillipsmbc@aatt.net

**Schedule of Activities**

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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**  
9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday Radio Broadcast**  
7:30 a.m. on 970 AM

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1013 S. Greenville Ave.  
Richardson, Texas 75081  
P. 972-644-2335 F. 972-644-9347



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**Schedule of Services**

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

**WEDNESDAY**  
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**  
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.  
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## "A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

ST. JOHN 12:21-36  
THE DESIRE OF THE GREEKS TO SEE JESUS

BY REV. JOHNNY CALVIN SMITH

As we approach this remarkable section of John's gospel account, we will discover that the Lord's public ministry is drawing to a close; in fact, our Lord has less than a week before He voluntarily gives His life as a ransom for mankind. In the previous section (St. John 12:12-20), we were exposed to the fact that a rabid crowd exclaimed the praise of "Hosanna" as He made His entrance into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, a beast of peace. But the praise of "Hosanna" will soon be changed to "crucify Him"

(Mark 5:13-14). As this section begins, we find a striking incident in which the Greeks sought to see Christ, for their coming was in stark contrast to the nation's rejection of Him. Several writers are in agreement that the Greeks mentioned were from the region of Syro-Phoenicia. These Greeks could have known Phillip since Phillip was from Bethsaida of Galilee - a city on the borders of Syro-Phoenicia. Phillip relates this matter to Andrew and the both of them took it to Jesus. With reference to the Greeks'

longing to see Jesus, verses 23-24 reveal that Jesus' impending "hour" was drawing nigh. All along His ministry, Jesus had repeatedly said that His "decisive hour" had not yet arrived (St. John 2:4, 7:6, 7:8, 7:30, 8:20). The hour in which He would be glorified referred to His approaching death - a death that was necessary in order for God to be totally appeased, for Jesus sacrificed His life for the sins of mankind. Yes, the Son of man will be glorified through death. He voluntarily served as mankind's sin

bearer on a rugged tree on Calvary! In verse 24, Jesus gives an analogy of a corn of wheat dying in the ground and yielding an abundant harvest to teach that death is necessary in order to have life! You can't have life until you have death. In verses 25-26, our Lord lays down a principle that believers in Christ must be totally committed, willing even to abandon all their self-interests in life in order to follow Him. As servants of Jesus Christ, one must be willing to follow Jesus in humiliation; however, after humiliation, there will be honor. Without wavering in any degree to His purpose, our Lord reveals His inward suffering as His "decisive hour" approached (v. 27-28). His soul was deeply stirred in view of the horror

of His approaching hour - the hour from which He would not shrink. The trouble that Jesus experienced was indeed weighty; the prospect of becoming a curse for us to propitiate God's righteous judgment against sinners was extremely agonizing. But, I am so glad that Jesus did not shrink from His decision to save us! Jesus knew the main reason for His incarnation, for He was not going to abandon His purpose for coming into the world. In verses 28-30, the Father spoke audibly from heaven in approval of Jesus, with special reference to the time in which the Son of man will be glorified. Christ's wonderful earthly ministry will be climaxed in His death and resurrection. At the cross, Satan was defeated (v.31); his

power over people in the realm of sin and death has been defeated; thus, people can be delivered from the tyranny of spiritual darkness and slavery to sin (Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15). Through the saving ministry of the cross (v. 32-33), Jesus offers salvation to all who might believe, even in this context to the Greeks (v. 20). Of course, the prospect of Jesus dying on a cross of shame caused the people to be puzzled because they looked forward to a reigning Messiah, not a crucified Messiah (v. 34). Our lesson concludes in verses 35-36 with Jesus admonishing the people to take advantage of the opportunity to believe in the light for the opportunity to accept Him was limited.

*May God bless!*




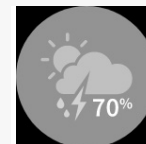
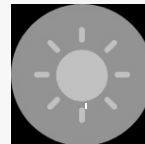




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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Mar. 11	Friday, Mar. 12	Saturday, Mar. 13	Sunday, Mar. 14	Monday, March 15	Tuesday, March 16	Wednesday, March 17
 H - 77° L - 67°	 H - 77° L - 65°	 H - 76° L - 61°	 H - 63° L - 48°	 H - 69° L - 53°	 H - 71° L - 51°	 H - 62° L - 44°

### Cowboys, QB Prescott finally have agreement on new contract

By SCHUYLER DIXON

The Dallas Cowboys and Dak Prescott have finally agreed on the richest contract in club history two years after negotiations first started with the star quarterback.

The team said the agreement was reached Monday. It's a \$160 million, four-year contract with \$126 million guaranteed and an NFL-record \$66 million signing bonus, according to a person with knowledge of the deal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details weren't announced.

The deal comes a day before a deadline to put the franchise tag on Prescott for a second straight year at a salary cap charge of \$37.7 million.

Prescott played on a \$31.4 million franchise tag in 2020 before his season ended with a compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle in Week 5.

The 27-year-old Prescott is the fourth Dallas player to get a \$100 million contract after Tony Romo, the injured

quarterback he replaced and ultimately sent into retirement, and two teammates in defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence and receiver Amari Cooper.

Before the gruesome injury, Prescott had started every game since the beginning of his rookie year after replacing an injured Romo during the 2016 preseason.

Prescott won NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors while leading the Cowboys to the No. 1 seed in the NFC and two years later won his first playoff game while reaching his second Pro Bowl.

Negotiations on a new contract started the following offseason, when Prescott was going into the final year of a four-year contract that paid him a total of about \$4 million as a fourth-round pick. That included \$2 million in the final season.

Prescott got a 1,500% raise with his first franchise tag, which locked in another increase for a second tag despite the salary cap going down because of the NFL's



FILE - In this Oct. 11, 2020, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott throws a pass in the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in Arlington, Texas. The Cowboys and Prescott have finally agreed on a contract two years after negotiations began with the star quarterback. The team the agreement was reached Monday, March 8, 2021, with further details to be announced. (AP Photo/Michael Ainsworth, File)

revenue dip in the pandemic. With a new contract, the Cowboys should get salary cap relief they're expected to need with the cap falling from \$198 million to a possibility of as low as \$180 million. The cap has risen about \$10 million per season for most of the past decade.

Even before Prescott's

injury, the Cowboys started slowly in coach Mike McCarthy's first season last year. But Prescott was still leading the NFL in yards passing for the league's No. 1 offense. Those numbers plummeted as Dallas lost its first four games without Prescott, falling to 2-7 on the way to a 6-10 finish.

Continued **Meghan** Page 1

The family member was not Queen Elizabeth II or Prince Philip, according to Harry, sparking a flurry of speculation about who it could be.

Leaders around the world were asked about the interview, and citizens of many countries had an opinion.

In Accra, Ghana, Devinia Cudjoe said that hearing that a member of the royal family was worried about the color of the skin of an unborn child was insulting to people of the Commonwealth, the grouping of Britain and its former colonies that is headed by the queen.

"That is pure racism," Cudjoe said. "(The) Commonwealth is supposed to foster unity, oneness amongst black people, amongst white people. But if we are hearing things like this ... I think that is below the belt."

In Nairobi, Kenya, Rebecca Wangare called Meghan "a 21st-century icon of a strong woman. She has faced racism head-on."

Asma Sultan, a journalist in Karachi, Pakistan, said the interview "is going to tarnish the image of the royal family."

"There is so much controversy ever since Diana's death, so it is new Pandora box which is opened up," she said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson refused to comment on the interview,

praising the queen but saying that "when it comes to matters to do with the royal family the right thing for a prime minister to say is nothing."

Asked whether U.S. President Joe Biden and his wife Jill had any reaction to the interview, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Meghan's decision to speak about her struggles with mental health "takes courage" and "that's certainly something the president believes in."

But she said she wouldn't offer additional comment on the situation "given these are private citizens, sharing their own story and their own struggles."

The allegations are especially damaging because many observers hoped Harry and Meghan, who is biracial, would help the tradition-bound monarchy relate to an increasingly multicultural nation. In the early days of their marriage, Harry and Meghan joined William and his wife, Catherine, in projecting a glamorous, energetic image for the young royals.

That partnership was severed when Harry and Meghan left the country, saying they wanted to earn their own living and escape what they called intrusive, racist coverage by the British media.

But the interview brought that criticism into the palace itself, with the couple directing allegations of racism at an unidentified member of the royal family.

Meghan said that when she was pregnant with her son, Archie, Harry told her that the royal family had had "concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born."

Harry confirmed the conversation, saying: "I was a bit shocked." He said he wouldn't reveal who made the comment. Winfrey later said Harry told her the comment didn't come from Queen Elizabeth II or Prince Philip, his grandparents.

Meghan, 39, acknowledged she was naive at the start of her relationship with Harry and unprepared for the strictures of royal life. A successful actress before her marriage, she said she bridled at the controlling nature of being royal, squirming at the idea that she had to live on terms set by palace staff. This was compounded by the fact that the staff refused to help her when she faced racist attacks from the media and internet trolls, she said.

The situation became so difficult that at one point, "I just didn't want to be alive anymore," Meghan told Winfrey.

But when she sought help through the palace's human resources department, she was told there was nothing it could do because she wasn't an employee, Meghan said.

The implications for the interview — which was broadcast Sunday evening in the United States and will air in Britain on

Monday night — are only beginning to be understood. Emily Nash, royal editor at Hello! Magazine, said the revelations had left her and many other viewers "shell-shocked."

"I don't see how the palace can ignore these allegations, they're incredibly serious," she said. "You have the racism allegations. Then you also have the claim that Meghan was not supported, and she sought help even from the HR team within the household and was told that she couldn't seek help."

The younger royals have made campaigning for support and awareness around mental health one of their priorities. But Harry said the royal family was completely unable to offer that support to its own members.

"For the family, they very much have this mentality of 'This is just how it is, this is how it's meant to be, you can't change it, we've all been through it,'" Harry said.

The couple had faced severe criticism in the United Kingdom before the interview. Prince Philip, 99, is in a London hospital recovering from a heart procedure, and critics saw the decision to go forward as being a burden on the queen — even though CBS, rather than Harry and Meghan, dictated the timing of the broadcast.

In the United States, sympathy for the couple poured in. Tennis star Serena Williams, a friend

Continued CDC Page 1

the ability of those who have been vaccinated to get and spread the virus.

Authorized vaccine doses first became available in December, and they were products that required two doses spaced weeks apart. But since January, a small but growing number of Americans have been fully vaccinated, and have been asking questions like: Do I still have to wear a mask? Can I go to a bar now? Can I finally see my grandchildren?

The guidance was "welcome news to a nation that is understandably tired of the pandemic and longs to safely resume normal activities," said Dr. Richard Besser, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a former acting director of the CDC.

"I hope that this new guidance provides the momentum for everyone to get vaccinated when they can and gives states the patience to follow the public health roadmap needed to reopen their economies and communities safely," said Besser, in a statement.

But some said the guidance is too cautious.

The CDC did not change its recommendations on travel, which discourages

unnecessary travel and calls for getting tested within a few days of the trip. That could seem confusing to vaccinated people hoping to visit family across the country or abroad.

"They need to relax travel for those vaccinated" and to immediately publish electronic standards for documents that show whether a person is fully vaccinated, said Khan, who formerly was a leading CDC disease detective.

The new guidance also says nothing about going to restaurants or other places, even though governors are lifting restrictions on businesses, said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who formerly was Baltimore's health commissioner.

Wen has said the CDC should have had some kind of post-vaccination guidance ready in January, when some people first began to finish their second doses. And she called the guidance that came out Monday "far too cautious."

"Even if you're vaccinated, it's better to be safe than sorry. This is the new normal. This is part of life and you just have to adapt to it," McShane said.

who attended Harry and Meghan's wedding, said on Twitter that the duchess's words "illustrate the pain and cruelty she's experienced."

"The mental health consequences of systemic oppression and victimization are devastating, isolating and all too often lethal," Williams added.

Britain could be less forgiving once the full interview is broadcast, since some see the pair as putting personal happiness ahead of public duty.

Meghan — then known as Meghan Markle, who had starred on the American TV legal drama "Suits" — married Harry at Windsor Castle in May 2018.

But even that was not what it seemed: The couple revealed in the interview that they exchanged vows in front of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby three days before their spectacular wedding ceremony at the castle.

Archie was born the following year and in a rare positive moment in the interview, the couple revealed their second child, due in the summer, would be a girl.

Harry said he had lived in fear of a repeat of the fate of his mother, Princess Diana, who was covered constantly by the press and died in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by paparazzi.

"What I was seeing was history repeating itself, but definitely far more danger-

ous — because then you add race in, and you add social media in," Harry said.

Both Meghan and Harry praised the support they had received from the monarch.

"The queen has always been wonderful to me," Meghan said.

But Harry revealed he currently has a poor relationship with William and said things got so bad with his father that at one point Prince Charles stopped taking his calls.

"There is a lot to work through there," Harry said of his father. "I feel really let down. He's been through something similar. He knows what pain feels like. And Archie is his grandson. I will always love him, but there is a lot of hurt that has happened."

If you or someone you know is having suicidal thoughts, you can seek help from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in the United States on 1-800-273-8255. The Samaritans in the United Kingdom can be reached on 116 123.



A member of the military stands guard outside Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in central London, Sunday, March 7, 2021. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

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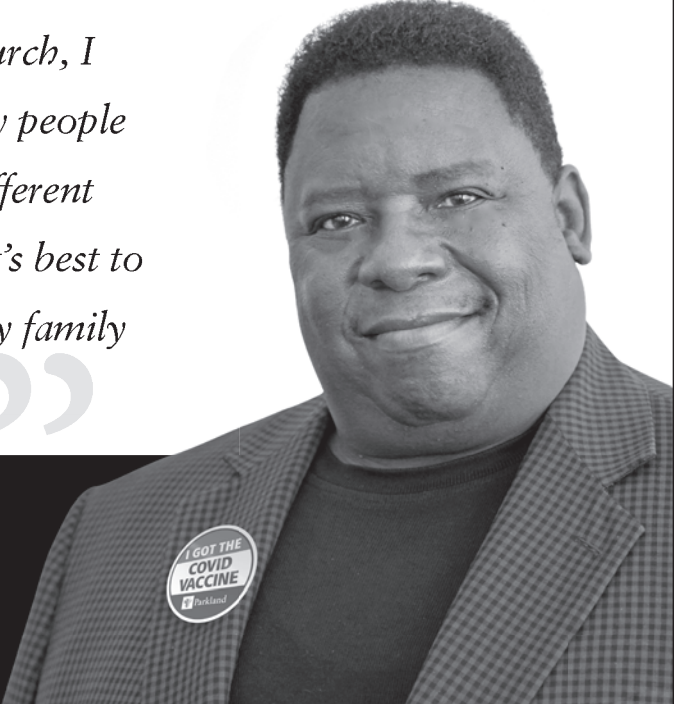
## Multiple writers added to Roddy Ricch's 'The Box' at Grammys

By FEKADU MESFIN

NEW YORK (AP) — Multiple writers have been added to the Grammy submission for Roddy Ricch's No. 1 hit "The Box," which is nominated for three honors including best rap song and song of the year, one of the show's top prizes.

Ricch, who is nominated for six honors and will perform at Sunday's show, won his first Grammy — best rap performance — last year for his guest appearance on Nipsey Hussle's "Racks In the Middle."


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# BREAKING NEWS!

## Congress OKs \$1.9T virus relief bill in win for Biden, Dems

By ALAN FRAM



Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., center, speaks accompanied by Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., left, and Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., during a news conference, before the vote on the Democrat's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, on Capitol Hill. (AP Photo/Alex Brand)

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Congress riven along party lines approved a landmark \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill Wednesday, as President Joe Biden and Democrats claimed a triumph on a bill that marshals the government's spending might against twin pandemic and economic crises that have upended a nation.

The House gave final congressional approval to the sweeping package by a near party line 220-211 vote precisely seven weeks after Biden entered the White House and four days after the Senate passed the bill. Republicans in both chambers opposed the bill unanimously, characterizing it as bloated, crammed with liberal policies and heedless of signs the crises are easing.

"Help is here," Biden tweeted moments after the roll call, which ended with applause from Democratic lawmakers. Biden said he'd sign the measure Friday.

Most noticeable to many Americans are provisions providing up to \$1,400 direct payments this year to most adults and extending \$300 weekly emergency unemployment benefits into early September. But the legislation goes far beyond that.

The measure addresses Democrats' campaign promises and Biden's top initial priority of easing a one-two punch that first hit the coun-

try a year ago. Since then, many Americans have been relegated to hermit-like lifestyles in their homes to avoid a disease that's killed over 525,000 people — about the population of Wichita, Kansas — and plunged the economy to its deepest depths since the Great Depression.

"Today we have a decision to make of tremendous consequence," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., "a decision that will make a difference for millions of Americans, saving lives and livelihoods."

For Biden and Democrats, the bill is essentially a canvas on which they've painted their core beliefs — that government programs can be a benefit, not a bane, to millions of people and that spending huge sums on such efforts can be a cure, not a curse. The measure so closely tracks Democrats' priorities that several rank it with the top achievements of their careers, and despite their slender congressional majorities there was never real suspense over its fate.

They were also empowered by three dynamics: their unfettered control of the White House and Congress, polls showing robust support for Biden's approach and a moment when most voters care little that the national debt is soaring toward a stratospheric



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., leads the vote to approve a landmark \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, March 10, 2021. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

\$22 trillion. Neither party seems much troubled by surging red ink, either, except when the other is using it to finance its priorities, be they Democratic spending or GOP tax cuts.

Rep. Jared Golden of Maine was the only Democrat to oppose the measure. He said in a written statement that some of the bill's spending wasn't urgent.

Republicans noted that they've overwhelmingly supported five previous relief bills that Congress has approved since the pandemic struck a year ago, when divided government under then-President Donald Trump forced the parties to negotiate. They said this one solely reflected Democratic goals by setting aside money for family planning programs and federal workers who take leave to cope with COVID-19 and failing to require that shuttered schools accepting aid reopen their doors.

"If you're a member of the swamp, you do pretty well under this bill. But for the American people, it means serious problems immediately on the horizon," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., referring to the added federal borrowing the measure will force.

A dominant feature of the 628-page bill is initiatives making it one of the biggest

federal efforts in years to assist lower- and middle-income families. Included are expanded tax credits over the next year for children, child care and family leave — some of them credits that Democrats have signaled they'd like to make permanent — plus spending for renters, feeding programs and people's utility bills.

Besides the direct payments and jobless-benefit extension, the measure has hundreds of billions for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, schools, state and local governments and ailing industries from airlines to concert halls. There is aid for farmers of color, pension systems and student borrowers, and subsidies for consumers buying health insurance and states expanding Medicaid coverage for lower earners.

"Who's going to help? Do we say this is all survival of the fittest? No," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky. "We rise to the occasion. We deliver."

Underscoring the bill's focus, the independent Tax Policy Center said the measure would give almost 70% of its tax breaks this year to households earning \$91,000 or less. In contrast, the Trump-era GOP tax bill gave nearly half its 2018

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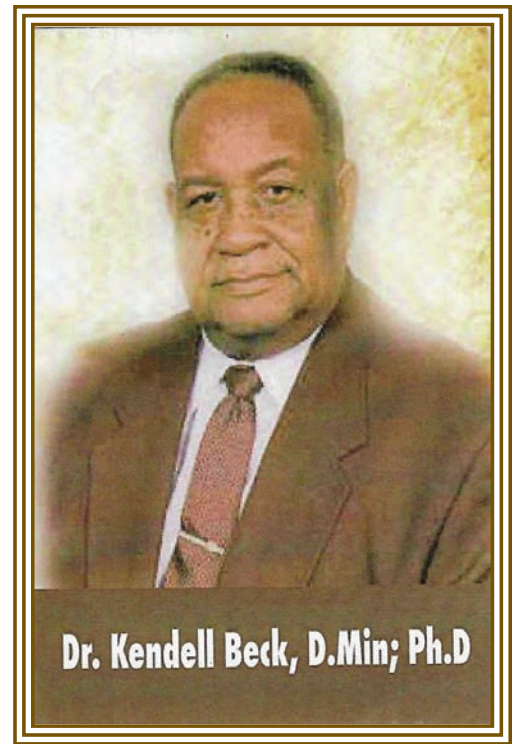
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# Remembering Dr. Kendell Beck, D.Min; Ph.D

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Dr. Kendell Beck, D.Min; Ph.D August 19, 1933 - March 11, 2015

## Customer service shines at Core 4 training at Harlee

BY THE HUB

Harlee Early Childhood Center is putting customer service first thanks to a Core 4 training with the school's front office staff. Dallas ISD Core 4 Coordinator Tunisia Wallace provided tips and best practices to the staff as part of the training. Core 4 is the district's customer service initiative

that focuses on fast, flexible, friendly and focused service. "Mrs. Wallace's relational training approach and ability to connect with each staff member led to each team member walking away with major take-aways," Principal Amber Shields said. "The day after the training, the front

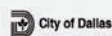
office staff was still buzzing as quotes from Mrs. Wallace were heard. This training has taken our implementation of the Core 4 to an even higher level and renewed our commitment to providing all stakeholders the ultimate customer service experience at Harlee Early Childhood Center."

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Continued **BREAKING NEWS!** Page 5

reductions to the top 5% of households earning around \$308,000, said the research center, which is run by the liberal-leaning Urban Institute and Brookings Institution.

The measure was approved amid promising though mixed signs of recovery.

Americans are getting vaccinated at increasingly robust rates, though that is tempered by coronavirus variants and people's growing impatience with curbing social activities. The economy created an unexpectedly strong 379,000 jobs last month, though there remain 9.5 million fewer than before the pandemic struck.

Republicans said the country will pay a price for the extra spending.

"It's certainly good politics to say, 'Hey, we're going to hand you a check for \$1,400,'" said Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C. "But what they don't talk about is what this

bill costs."

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found last week that 70% of Americans back Biden's response to the virus, including a hefty 44% of Republicans. According to a CNN poll released Wednesday, the relief bill is backed by 61% of Americans, including nearly all Democrats, 58% of independents and 26% of Republicans.

Yet until November 2022, when control of the Senate and House will be at stake, it will be uncertain whether voters will reward Democrats, punish them or make decisions on unforeseen issues.

The bill's pathway has underscored Democrats' challenges as they seek to build a legislative record to appeal to voters.

Democrats control the Senate, split 50-50, only because Vice President

Kamala Harris gives them the winning vote in tied roll calls. They have just a 10-vote advantage in the House.

That's almost no wiggle room for a party that ranges from West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin on the conservative side to progressives like New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

On the relief bill, progressives had to swallow big concessions to solidify moderate support.

The most painful was eliminating the House-approved federal minimum-wage increase to \$15 hourly by 2025. Moderates also succeeded in trimming the emergency jobless benefits, which in an earlier version were \$400 weekly, and phasing out the \$1,400 stimulus checks completely for earners at lower levels than originally proposed.

At some point it seems likely that progressives will draw their own lines in the sand.



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