

# Happy Easter

“May your Easter be happy, and may your day be bright. May you enjoy the treat and sweet delights. But remember the meaning: remember God's gift. Remember the resurrection, and may your soul be uplifted.”

-Author Unknown



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 29

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

March 28 - April 3, 2024

## DA Look Inside Dallas's Proposed \$1.25 Billion Bond Has the City Wondering, 'Where is the Money, LaShondra?'

By Marliisa Collier | Dallas Weekly Magazine

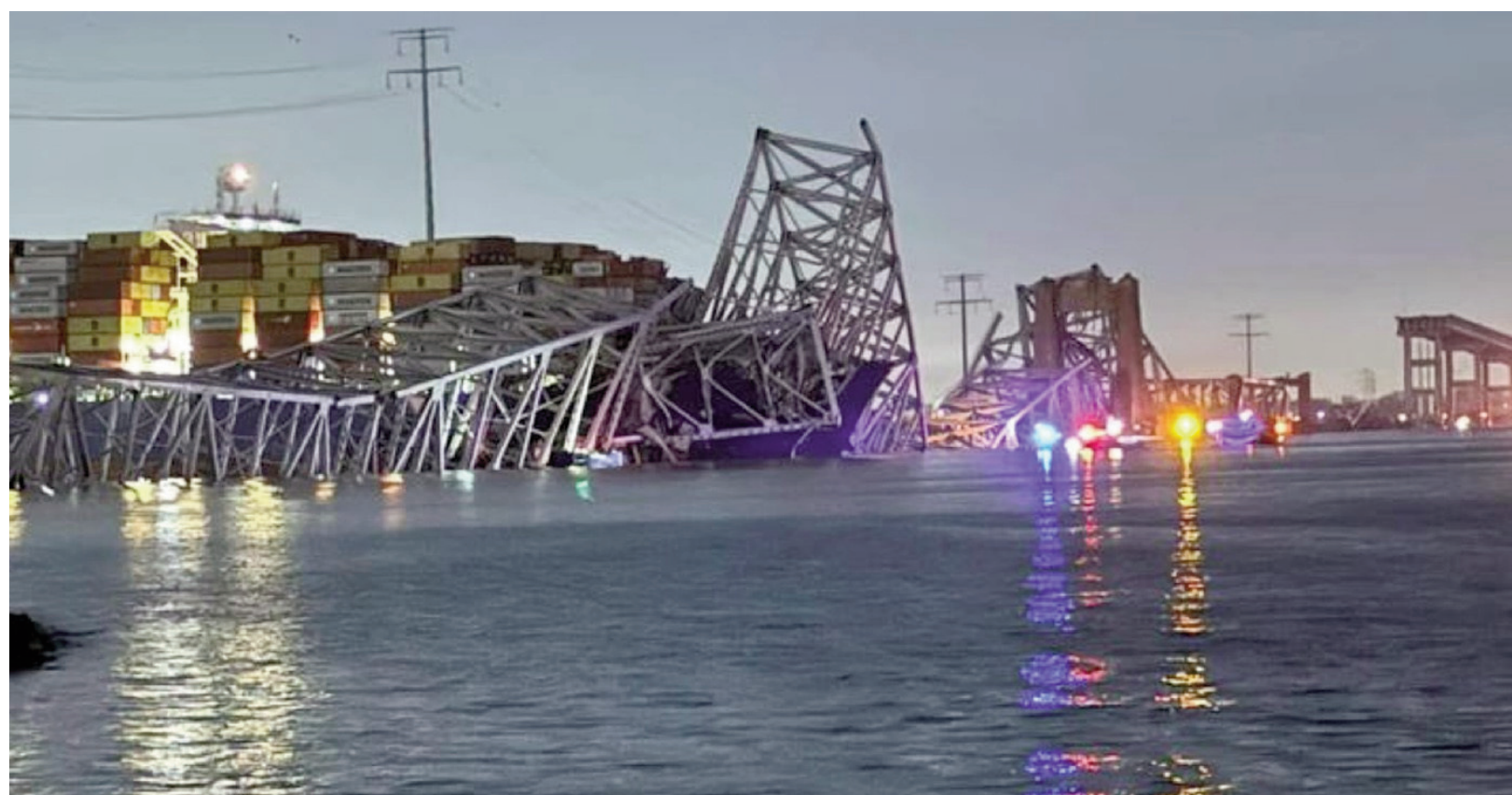
These Dallas streets have become notorious. But not for the summer day parties, life-threatening Deep Ellum nights, or the random sighting of a front-facing scooter bike “gang” (because can it really be a gang if everyone’s knees are in front of them?). Instead, Dallas streets have become notorious for their condition. Namely, the countless gaping holes developed from sitting water, wear and tear, and what we can only hope is the occasional trail ride function that has gone all the right way. The kind of holes that are so disruptive and destructive that they make trying to record the next viral TikTok video en route to that job you’re hoping to quit once the content takes off, all but impossible, and unplanned tire, suspension, and axle repairs all but inevitable. In fact, the streets are so bad in Dallas that they were at the center of a lawsuit against the city back in 2017 when a driver named John Everhart sued the city for auto damages caused by these notorious potholes.

Needless to say, the city was able to have the lawsuit dismissed, denying it could be

Continue Dallas Page 2

# Baltimore's Key Bridge Struck by Ship, Collapses into Water

By AFRO Staff



The Key Bridge opened in 1977 and was “the third longest continuous truss bridge in the world. With the main span stretching 1,200 feet.” Photo courtesy: **The Afro**.

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has issued an alert on Facebook and other social media platforms warning drivers to “avoid I-695 southeast corridor” as a portion of the I-695 Francis Scott Key Bridge suffered a “collapse due to ship strike.”

The I-95 and I-895 tunnels are alternative routes to the Key Bridge.

Videos showing the scene immediately

began to make rounds on social media. A ship can be seen striking a pillar of the bridge, causing a major portion of it to fall into the Baltimore Harbor in the early morning of March 26.

Emergency personnel have responded, as multiple cars can be seen actively using the bridge for travel at the moment it collapsed.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski commented on the incident via

social media.

“We are closely monitoring the ongoing situation at the Key Bridge,” said Olszewski to his followers on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

“I remain in contact with our emergency response team as well as state and local partners,” he said. “Response efforts are

Continue Bridge Page 4

# Celebrating the Life of Carolyn A. Jones Henderson

Carolyn Ann Jones was one of three daughters born to the union of Johnnie B. Jones and Opal Williams Jones. Carolyn was born on September 9, 1946, which was the day after her Mom’s birthday, so her Dad always celebrated both birthdays on the same day. Her Mother would often say that she lost her birthday after Carolyn was born. Carolyn was a product of the Dallas Independent School District and graduated as Valedictorian from Lincoln High School in 1964.

Carolyn attended Munger Avenue Baptist Church at an early age and later joined Boll Street CME Church (currently Cedar Crest Cathedral CME) in 1951.

The move to Boll Street CME happened because Carolyn’s Dad was a member there, and her parents decided to unite the family at one church.

Upon graduating high school, Carolyn wanted to be different from her sister, Sharon, by leaving Texas for College. Carolyn attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics.

In 1968, Carolyn experienced major life changes. In addition to graduating from Spelman, she got married to her Morehouse Man, William (Bill) Henderson, started her corporate career with IBM, and moved to Kingston, New York. While



September 9, 1946 - March 16, 2024

at IBM, Carolyn held many positions until she turned in her badge in 1998, after 30 years with the company—an almost unheard-of feat today.

Carolyn and Bill relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, where both of their children, Eric Scott and Erin Christen, were born. Moving to Dallas, Texas, in 1984 allowed Carolyn to show her family everything she loved about her hometown.

Carolyn joined the Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc., where she was especially fond of working with the Beautillion fundraiser. Carolyn usually chose to lead the Belle Committee to impart her wisdom to the

young ladies escorted by the Beaux in the Beautillion. Additionally, Carolyn joined the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, where she co-chaired Jabberwock, the Chapter fundraiser. In 1994, Carolyn was one of the Founding Members of the Trinity (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Carolyn acquired her appreciation for civic involvement from her Mother.

Carolyn A. Henderson is survived by her husband of almost 56 years, William; children, Eric (Lisa Greene) Henderson and Erin (Kellen Moore) Henderson-Moore; sisters, Sharon Gray and

Continue Carolyn Page 5



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Mississippi Deputies Give State's Law Enforcement Officers Disgrace And Shame

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

The events you read about and hear about sometimes make you say, did that really happen? It makes you wonder out loud, that can't be.

Our America is going through it right now. At every corner, our sensibilities are being tested and tried. Common sense has become obsolete. What have we become? That's a good question with many answers.

We shake our heads, thinking, what's next? It's not if anymore; it's simply when something bad and evil will happen. Is being hopeful these days a minority view? I hope not.

I heard a man who is running to be president of this country say recently that it's going to be a blood bath. His tone and tenor are getting worse by the day. He has

obfuscated and made the landscape dangerous. His actions have empowered men and women to be mean-spirited and hate filled.

This tour of meanness and hate has spread to many states and organizations. One state that has had its share of racial hate is Mississippi. While good and great people live there, unfortunately, there is a faction that is giving the Magnolia state a bad name.

Six Rankin County deputy sheriffs tortured and tormented two men for no lawful reason. The deputies were White, and the victims were Black. The officers were called the Goon Squad by some people there. They were known to apply excessive force when making arrests.

Two questions immediately come to my mind. First, was the excessive force sanctioned by the Rankin County Law Enforcement Department? Second, was race a factor when they assaulted the two African American men?

It is my opinion the officers in question were never queried about their tactics. They just did whatever they wanted to do. Rules and regulations were not followed.

I do believe race was a factor in the severe beating given to these Black men. The White officers had an overdose of hate as they took matters into their own hands. I think officers on the inside knew but said nothing.

This heinous incident started on January 24th of last year. The allegation was that two Black men were staying in a house with a White woman. Assaults of varying degrees happened. Police photos when taken did not show the damage that these officers inflicted upon the two Black men, Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker.

Drugs were falsely planted on them to bring charges against Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker. Unfortunately, there are some who are charged to protect and to serve who only poison and sour. Their intentions are never good, only bad. They never worry about getting caught because those in power have already been bought.

Some in power are hamstrung by race. It is like having shackles on your legs you don't want to take off.

There is the shackle of racism that makes you hate people because of the color

of their skin. There is the shackle of sexism that makes you disrespect women, and there is the shackle of intolerance that makes you opposed to other opinions and views.

U.S. District Judge Tom Lee has sentenced all six members of the Goon Squad. He said, "The officers' actions were egregious and despicable."

Will the Goon Squad be disbanded? It would be too noble to believe that racism has suddenly been weeded out of the Rankin County law enforcement center. Sadly, I believe the difference this time is that the officers were caught. Will there be a next time for them to show their disapproval of African Americans?

Citizens who are Black in Rankin County should be vigilant when it comes to trusting the police. That is my opinion. This is why district and federal judges are needed in social justice cases, especially when they involve race. Justice, sometimes at the local level, will not be served and is often delayed.

Now, Rankin County in Mississippi is in the news for all the wrong reasons.

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Continued **Dallas** Page 1

held liable for damages caused by its mean streets. Then, in 2019, the City Council was briefed on the state of Dallas's 11,775 miles of streets, where they would learn that, as a whole, the average "grade" of Dallas roads sat at a pathetic 65.4, or a D. During this 2019 presentation, city staffers briefed the council on what it would take to tutor the city's byways up to a C grade or 75 average score. The team maintained that the city would need a budget of almost \$100 million more than what was to be allocated to street maintenance in 2021 and an additional \$230 million for projects in 2023. According to the city staff, these ballooned budget needs must continue through 2028.

Soon, the city of Dallas and the Department of Works would allocate funds to upgrade the city's streets and would go on to spend almost \$289 million with two contractors for road improvements, which, according to a 2022 audit, may not have been up to par. The audit, conducted by City Auditor Mark Swann, found that projects were "not consistently monitored and inspected for quality and timely performance" and that project information was "not centralized or reliable." Swann also noted in his

report that project expenditures had not been consistently verified as cost overages would occur without documented explanation.

The two contractors in the crosshairs of Swann's audit, Heritage Materials, LLC and Texas Materials, LLC, both of whose almost non-existent digital footprint is troubling, especially since they are doing millions in business with the city of Dallas, were awarded in excess of \$235 million and \$53 million respectively. Swann's audit exposed an estimated \$15.5 million in cost overages, bringing the total spend between these two contractors in excess of the estimated cost to 12%. What's worse, though, is that back in Fiscal Year 2015, the Office of the City Auditor conducted a similar audit, looking into street paving and maintenance, only to find a similar issue with the city's oversight of these barrels of money, wherein auditors observed, "unmet inspection requirements," "lack of documentation to demonstrate work was performed," and "inconsistent or unreliable use of project management systems." Because of Dallas's history of financial mismanagement, specifically regarding road maintenance, a look inside Dallas's \$1.25 billion proposed bond should have the city wondering, "Where is the Money, LaShondra?"

Now, over at Dallas Weekly, we're excellent at telling the stories that people need most. We don't claim to be mathematicians by any stretch. However, proof of basic knowledge of basic arithmetic is required upon joining the newsroom, and something just isn't adding up. Not only have things not added up in the past but there's something interestingly suspect about the potential \$1.25 billion bond from whence the city Council is seemingly willing to allocate \$500 million for the same notorious Dallas streets that were supposed to get a massive upgrade between 2019 and 2021. And if we can't keep up with \$289 million, ensuring that the work that is to be done with said funds is actually completed, on time, and within budget, what makes us so sure that the city can keep up with a budget of \$500 million?

The proposed bond, which, if agreed upon, would go to vote on May 4, has, as expected, been a major point of discussion for the council, with council members making cases for their causes of choice before their colleagues and the community. In a council meeting on Wednesday, January 31, the council voted 9-6 to approve a non-binding agreement pitched by Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins, who represents District 8. That propos-

al included \$310 million for parks, or \$50.5 million more than the council average. The council also agreed to slash the average public safety budget by \$5 million, allocating \$90 million to protecting the city and its citizens. Libraries booked a win (you see what we did there?), with the potential to grab \$29 million more than the average council budget for \$43.5 million of the bond, and cultural arts facilities also won big, locking in a potential \$75.2 million, \$10 million more than the average.

While there doesn't seem to be much pushback on proposed allocations for any of the aforementioned factions of Dallas city life, one major line item received and is still receiving immense criticism: Housing. Housing was allocated just \$61 million, a figure that means no more or less is proposed to be set aside than average after housing advocates asked for \$200 million to pour into the development of affordable units. Community members and some council members alike see this as a sign of trouble, especially given Dallas's rising cost of living and shortage of affordable housing units. However, one councilwoman, Cara Mendelsohn, saw things differently, arguing just days before the council approved

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## A MODEL OF AN EXEMPLARY CHURCH I THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

### PART I



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Paul, the established writer of I Thessalonians, wrote this first letter to believers at Thessalonica after founding the church there and moving on to Berea, Athens, and Corinth (Acts 17:1-18:1). This first epistle was written by Paul from Corinth about A.D. 51. This epistle was written during Paul's second missionary journey. Paul's aim in writing this letter was to confirm the converts he had made during his second missionary journey. There were no obvious factions among the Thessalonian believers,

thus this church served as a model of an exemplary church. I Thessalonians 1:1-10 may be outlined as follows: I. An Exemplary Church Commended – I Thessalonians 1:1-4; II. An Exemplary Church Committed – I Thessalonians 1:5-10.

#### I. An Exemplary Church Commended – I Thessalonians 1:1-4

In verse 1, Paul begins this epistle by mentioning the names of two of his associates, Silvanus and Timotheus. These two men were in his thoughts

whenever he used “we” or “our” in this letter. Silvanus was the Roman form of the Jewish name “Silas.” He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:40). Timotheus (Timothy) was Paul's son in the faith (I Timothy 1:2), for Paul had led Timothy to faith in Christ. Timothy joined Paul and Silas at Lystra (Acts 16:1-3) on the second missionary journey. Although the Thessalonian church had a geographical location, it also had a spiritual location “in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus

Christ” (I Thessalonians 1:1).

This church had embraced Jesus Christ as Saviour by faith. Paul greeted the Thessalonian believers by wishing them grace and peace. God's grace is the source of our salvation (Ephesians 2:8) as well as all spiritual blessings God bestows upon us (Romans 5:2). The peace spoken by Paul is spiritual well-being, and it flows from God's grace to us.

In verse 2, these believers were a constant source of joy to Paul and his associates as they

offered prayers of thanksgiving to God for the outgrowth of God's salvific work in the believers. The testimony of their salvation redounded to God's glory. They were truly a work of God's tremendous grace (Ephesians 2:10).

Paul had fond memories of this exemplary church because of their spiritual successes in verse 3. First, he remembered their work of faith. They exhibited a vibrant trust in God. Second, he remembered their labor of love. They actively served others. Third, he

remembered their patience of hope. They remained steadfast as they anticipated the Second Coming of our blessed Lord. Certainly, this church should be commended for exhibiting these worthy virtues. So, according to verse 3, this church was to be commended because it was a worthy church. Because of their spiritual successes, in verse 3, Paul was assured that the believers were among the electors of God in verse 4.

“May God Bless!”

## AFTER “THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN”

There is a narrative that many of us heard when we were children. This story tells how Joshua and the Israelites “Fought the Battle of Jerico.” According to one writer, “The story of the Israelite conquest of Jericho (Joshua 2-6) is one of the best known and best loved in the entire Bible. The vivid description of faith and victory has been a source of inspiration for countless generations of Bible readers.”

But that story is about invasion and war, and ultimately the deaths of a great number of people. And it gives us cause to wonder why it gives so many people a warm fuzzy feeling about their faith.

One answer to this question might be because it is a tale that helps some who share a Judeo-Christian imaginary built upon a foundational belief that there is a certain correctness of action when dealing with others outside of their faith community. The belief (or faith) underpinning this imaginary, and the sense of correctness of this religious community, incorporates a rather improbable set of events, which could be described as miraculous and evidence of divine favor.

After the people of Israel had ritualistically marched around the city of Jerico for several days, after they blew their ram horns and

shouted, and after the walls came tumbling down; the story did not end there. The most important part of this story is what happened next.

According to the King James Version of the Bible, after the great walls were destroyed and the Israelites entered the city and “utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.”

They also “burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”

The Battle of Jericho has been described as one of the bloodiest episodes of the Old Testament. So how has it been characterized as an achievement that should be celebrated in song by little children?

This story is not a complicated one. There were “good guys” and “bad guys” and an ultimate power that weighed in on the side of the good guys, allowing them to prevail. This is why it is a joyous narrative celebrated in song.

Aristotle said that every action and pursuit is thought to aim at some good. But ever since long before Aristotle, people have debated what is “good.” Vanquishing your enemies is usually thought

to be good. But when that vanquishing includes the slaughter of infants, the notion of “good” becomes shrouded in shadow and difficult to discern.

There are those who find a rationale in the Bible for slaughtering the infants of ancient Jerico and justify the bloodshed by explaining that the “Promised Land in which the Israelites were to settle was populated by the Canaanites who had corrupted and perverted God's truth. They had corrupted themselves to the place where they were beyond saving. Had any been permitted to live, they would have infected Israel with their moral depravity.”

The story of the battle of Jerico is of another time, and there are those among us who reason that humanity has progressed beyond the barbaric tribalism that is recounted in page after page of biblical text. But here we are today witnessing the murder of infants in Gaza, not only through the use of modern weaponry but through starvation and the creation of conditions that foster disease and a lack of basic human necessities.

We must all be honest and give witness to the fact that we are merely standing aside as we witness the progression of this genocide; a genocide that no honest person can characterize as anything else.

Because there are large

helpings of blame to share, everyone is serving blame up to the parties they oppose. But the truth is that most of the individuals currently breathing the air of this earth had not been born when this “conflict in the Middle East” began. Even if we examine history with clear-eyed objectivity, it is difficult to single out any one action that sets this never-ending horror into motion. Clearly, Jews were subjected to the unimaginable cruelty of the Holocaust by the German Third Reich. But then the response by the allied nations that defeated Germany in World War II was to shove aside people living in Palestine to create a homeland for a people who had been greatly oppressed in Europe. The European imaginary of Palestine as being populated with undeserving people had a great deal to do with the acquiescence to Jewish demands for a homeland there.

There is debate over the origin and significance of the slogan, “A land without a people for a people without a land” being justification for the Jewish occupation of Palestine. But it cannot be denied that this slogan, which has been documented as having been around since the mid-nineteenth century and espoused by both Christians and Jews, is a clear indication of the



Oscar Blayton

widespread perception of Palestinians being less than deserving of the land on which they lived.

The propensity towards colonialism or neocolonialism can not be ascribed to any particular ethnic or religious group and there are significant numbers of heroes and villains in every family of humankind, but we are witnessing the effects of a proposed sharing that was deemed unfair from its inception. In 1947, when the United Nations drew up its first plan to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish states it allocated approximately 56% of the land for a Jewish state, while about 43% was designated for an Arab state even though it was acknowledged that the land contained only 600,000 Jews, as opposed to 1.2 million Palestinians. This plan provided no rational explanation as to why the Jewish population, which was half the size of the Arab population was to receive the majority of the land. Because of this, the plan was rejected by the Palestinians and most, if

not all, of the surrounding Arab nations as being patently unfair. This is just one of the many threads of contention between people who have lived at odds with each other for decades. But if we, as citizens of the global community are to be worthy of our belief in our “humanness,” it is incumbent upon us to make this right and find a fair and just solution to this tragedy.

With all the human suffering in the world due to natural disasters, it is shameful that we are so base as to create manmade disasters of biblical proportions. The suffering in Gaza has been created by people, and people should be able to bring it to an end. We must come together and listen to our better angels and make this right.

*Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>*



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## HEALTH

### Don't Sit on Your Symptoms!

Get the facts about colon cancer from Parkland experts

Did you know that the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates colorectal cancer will cause about 53,010 deaths this year? That's more than double the number of fans who can fit into Toyota Stadium, the home of FC Dallas!

National Colorectal Cancer Month is here, and Parkland Health experts want to remind you to get screened and let your healthcare provider know if you have any concerning symptoms, such as a change in bowel habits, ongoing abdominal discomfort, or blood in the stool.

According to the ACS, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Black Americans. It can be caught early or even prevented through regular screenings. Most people should begin screening at age 45.

A colonoscopy isn't the only option for colon cancer screening. Many people can choose from other simple, low to no-cost options at home. Talk to your healthcare provider about colon cancer screening at your next visit to decide which option is right for you. Your provider may recommend a yearly FIT test, which can be done at home and mailed back to your provider. The test looks for blood in your stool, a sign of possible colorectal cancer.

In addition to getting your recommended screening, Parkland experts also offer these tips to prevent colorectal cancer:

- Eat a diet full of fruits, vegetables and whole grains
- Exercise regularly
- Avoid consuming alcohol as much as possible
- Quit smoking
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Ask your family about their health history.

For more information about screening for and preventing colorectal cancer, visit [www.cancer.parklandhealth.org](http://www.cancer.parklandhealth.org)

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the aforementioned proposal that Dallas' tax-paying citizens should not be required to pay for city-issued debt to get the affordable housing that other already established programs can help provide. Advocates pushed back on Mendelsohn, saying that the current city programs are insufficient to meet the need, pointing out that the city is currently 33,600 units short for low-income households. Again, though, if the city already has established programs to combat the lack of affordable housing, where is the oversight? How have these programs maintained subpar performance and remained funded?

For some context, these bonds, also called "municipal bonds," are a type of debt security issued by local, county, or state governments to pay for "capital expenditures" or things like roads, dams, schools, etc. Because this bond is debt, it must be paid back, and the way that's usually done is through a combination of taxes collected and revenue generated by the projects in bond funds invested. In Dallas's case, the Dallas Zoo is seeking to have \$30 million of bond funds allocated to them (probably from the Parks & Recreations budget) because, according to Former Dallas Park Chairman Bobby Abtahi, the "project is your best shot at making transformational

change." While the Dallas Zoo is certainly cool because who wouldn't want to hang out with the two emperor tamarin monkeys (Bella and Finn are their names) who were monkey-napped at Banana Point and held hostage amongst a collection of cats and pigeons for two days, it may be a bit of an oversale to call the new leopard enclosure "transformation" — especially when Dallas's people cannot (legally) live at the Dallas Zoo.

We now know that the bond will go to a vote. The council met on Wednesday, February 14, to finalize the bond proposal and approved calling it to a vote in a May election. So, the money will be borrowed, and the money

will be spent. But the real question should be, who is watching the money? Who is ensuring that it's actually going where it's supposed to go and being used in a way that's efficient and effective for all citizens of the city of Dallas? Because, to Ms. Cara's point, this is debt. Debt that, if approved, will mean that the people are on the hook on behalf of the city in one way or another. It's worth keeping a watchful eye on where the people's funds flow, and it wouldn't hurt to make sure this time around, the city keeps its promise of filling in a few more of those potholes that are costing residents new tires, shocks and the perfect take on their next TikTok video. Just saying.

Continued Bridge Page 1

ongoing. Our prayers remain with all those impacted."

According to information released by MDTA, the Key Bridge opened in 1977 and was "the third longest continuous truss bridge in the world. With the main span stretching 1,200 feet."

Later in the morning, Gov. Wes Moore declared a state of emergency due to the collapse.

"My office is in close communication with U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski, and the Baltimore Fire Department as emergency personnel are on the scene following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge," said Gov. Wes Moore in a statement. "I have declared a State of Emergency here in Maryland and we are work-

ing with an interagency team to deploy federal resources from the Biden Administration quickly."

Moore continued, "We will remain in close contact with federal, state, and local entities that are conducting rescue efforts as we continue to assess and respond to this tragedy."

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman spoke out on the incident.

"It is truly horrific to see reports of the Francis Scott

Key Bridge collapse early this morning. I am praying for and thinking of all those people who were traveling on the bridge, as well as the crew of the cargo ship involved and their families," said Lierman in a statement. "I am so grateful for the efforts of first responders from around the state assisting with the ongoing search for victims and survivors. I ask Marylanders to be alert as they make their way around the area today."

## Quinn Minute

# School recess was the best

By Rix Quinn

Do you remember elementary school recess?

At our school, we ate lunch right before playtime. We'd line up a single file to walk through the food line.

The plate lunch often included gravy-laden mystery meat — beef or possibly bird — plus mashed potatoes and something green or yellow.

That lunchroom had only two major rules: throw away food trash, but don't throw

away silverware. Once finished, we raced outside for random acts of insanity.

In those precious playground minutes, we dreamed up outrageous stunts for the afternoon.

In third grade, a guy in our class created a bathroom trick that others quickly copied. He would go into a stall and stand on the toilet.

He'd grab the stall wall, pull his head above it, and position his foot right just

above the flusher. Then he'd yell, "Please, don't throw me in!" He'd hit the flusher and start screaming as his head sank slowly below the stall wall.

We laughed like crazy. Unfortunately, the principal didn't

A girl in our class could whistle birdcalls. She'd start whistling, and some guy would shout, "Hey, do I hear a purple-tufted flutter foul?" Then we'd all run to

the window.

The teacher wised up, checked a reference book, and declared the purple-tufted flutter foul officially extinct.

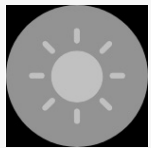
Those days are long past. But sometimes, right after lunch at my favorite diner, I get the urge to go outside and make wild birdie noises.

The restaurant doesn't like it...but some of the diners ask me for an autograph.

# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Mar. 28



H - 70°  
L - 56°

Friday, Mar. 29



H - 74°  
L - 61°

Saturday, Mar. 30



H - 77°  
L - 65°

Sunday, Mar. 31



H - 78°  
L - 69°

Monday, Apr. 1



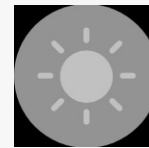
H - 80°  
L - 56°

Tuesday, Apr. 2



H - 62°  
L - 48°

Wednesday, Apr. 3



H - 64°  
L - 48°

### KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY IS CELEBRATING MINISTERING TO INMATES IN THE MICHAEL UNIT FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Kairos Prison Ministry, an international nonprofit organization and leading prison ministry with over 30,000 volunteers, announces that Kairos Michael will be holding its 60th Weekend in the Michael Unit, meaning that we have been serving right here in the community for over 30 years! Our 60th Kairos Inside Weekend will begin on April 11 and is a 3 1/2 day Weekend that is entirely led by volunteers. It is often said that Kairos offers a front-row seat to a miracle!

Hundreds of inmates throughout the years have participated in the 3 1/2 day Weekend program, which includes a series of talks, discussions, and prayer that creates or continues a desire for spiritual growth. This has enabled Kairos to establish a Christian community inside the prison by bringing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to those in darkness. This has resulted in an improved prison living environment, reduced recidivism, a safer community, and countless healed families.

Kairos achieves this impact by being the ministry that keeps coming back through Continuing Ministry. We go back into the Michael Unit for Prayer

and Share groups as well as monthly Reunions.

*"We are excited to be celebrating our 60th Weekend of bringing light to those in darkness within prison walls. Our ministry continues to transform the lives of inmates and volunteers alike and will for many years to come."* Evelyn Lemly, CEO

There are many ways the Texas community can get involved in this and future Kairos Weekends, of which there are generally two per year. Ways to get involved include joining the team that goes into Michael as part of the support team, baking Kairos Cookies that are given to participants, creating agape (letters, posters, placemats, banners, prayer chains), which are physical representations of love, prayer vigil participation, and through financial support as each Kairos Weekend is funded by donations and grants.

We would love the opportunity to speak with you about the positive impact that Kairos has made in the community. Please reach out to Tim West at 903-391-1091 or west404@icloud.com and visit <https://www.michaelunit.org/> to learn more about the important work Kairos does in Texas.

### National Links Trust Celebrates Black Golfers With 'Uneven Fairways' Documentary Screening

By Amber D. Dodd | Special to the AFRO  
adodd@afro.com

To celebrate Black History Month, The National Links Trust (NLT), a non-profit organization created to protect and promote municipal golf courses, showed the documentary "Uneven Fairways" on Feb. 20. The screening took place at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

"The legends of Black golf have forged for inclusion at the highest levels of golf competition for all people," said Damian Cosby, executive director of NLT.

Released in 2009, Uneven Fairways is narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, an avid golfer whose activism and work in Black communities stretches back to being a student at Morehouse College in the 1960s.

The film highlights the pantheon of Blacks—from Pete Brown, the first Black golfer to win a PGA Tour event at the 1965 Waco Open, to Jim Thorpe, a 75-year-old golfer and Morgan State University graduate with 21 professional wins—who reflect the vanguard of Black golfers who were barred from the professional ranks but persisted in the sport until the PGA's racial barriers ceased in 1961.

Peggy White, the daughter of Ted Rhodes, appeared in the documentary, too; Rhodes was widely considered to be the greatest Black golf player before Tiger Woods' emergence.

Rhodes did not get a chance to compete on the PGA Tour.

"I don't think my father was aware of the trailblazer he was," White said. "He had a dream that he would be the finest golfer in the world, but I don't think he realized he accomplished that goal."

Throughout the film, golfers detail how the PGA's color barrier was upheld by a longstanding clause in the PGA. From 1929 to 1961, Article III Section I of the PGA's handbook stated that, "Male professional golfers of the Caucasian race, over the age of eighteen (18) years, residing in North or South America, who can qualify under the terms and condition hereinafter specified, shall be eligible for

membership."

While the documentary tells the story of the individual experience of being Black in golf, Uneven Fairways also highlights the founding of the United Golf Association, commonly known as the Chitlin Circuit, which provided Black golfers opportunities to compete.

"Black people, being very resourceful, wanted to play and so in 1925, a group of Black businessmen met in a YMCA in Washington, D.C. and basically said 'Well, PGA won't let us play on their tour, so we'll start our own tour,'" said Pete McDaniel, author of Uneven Lines: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf.

Later that year, the first National Negro Open was contested.

The Chitlin Circuit served as an incubator for many of golf's first popular Black players and served as fertile ground for future golf giants.

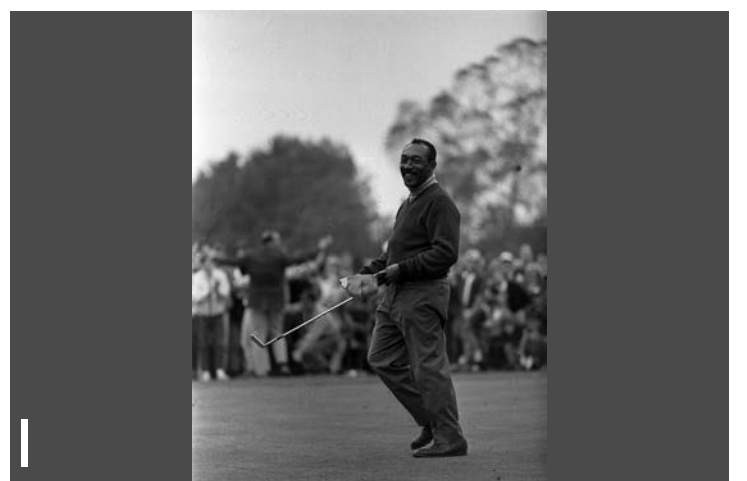
Speaking to the documentary's name, golfers talked about the conditions of golf courses that UGA players conducted golf tournaments on, citing shoddy landscapes and uneven grounds, usually played on municipal golf courses.

"One of the reasons why I love municipal golf is that it brings people together," Cosby said. "It's the easy way to get a young Black kid who's probably never seen as much green grass on a golf course to keep them out there. That's what I love about, it connects people to the game and brings people to the game."

Inclusivity was no question for the UGA. Black women were automatically members of the association. Renee Powell, the second Black woman to participate in the LPGA tour, who spoke about her admission into UGA as a teenager golfer was mentioned in the documentary.

"All the young Black golfers, that's where they played," Albert Green, a UGA/PGA player explained. "Lee Alder, Charlie Sifford, Calvin Peete, Teddy Rhodes, that's where those guys got their start."

Ron Terry called the



Golfer Charlie Sifford smiling as he wins the 1969 Los Angeles Open, 13 January 1969. Photo Credit: Ben Olender, Los Angeles Times / Wikimedia Commons.

Chitlin Circuit a family-affair, "It was a tour where you got to know everybody," he said. "It was more like a fraternity than anything."

Many mentioned how players supported one another on efforts on and off the course.

"We all traveled together anyway, so we helped each other...if you were hungry, we're going to feed you, we weren't going to let go around hungry," Leonard James explained.

Members often paid for and provided their own resources which they were happy to share with others.

"They were going to eat because I always carried electric pots with me, and a frying pan," James Black joked back.

Although an alternative league was created, it was still very clear that the color line imposed barriers that didn't impact White athletes.

"It was a joy to be around but it was separate, totally separate and not equal," said John Merchant, a former USGA executive committee member.

Though golfers made their own efforts to break the color barrier of the golf world, the documentary shed light on how Joe Louis, the former heavyweight champion broke the color barrier in the PGA-sanctioned tournament in 1952 San Diego Open. Louis spoke against the PGA as they would become the final major American sports corporation to integrate Black athletes.

Louis' son, Joe Louis Barrow Jr., spoke on behalf of his father's racial contributions in both boxing and golf. "If you ask any of those

older golfers, the reasons they're playing golf today, or throughout their career is because of Joe Louis," Barrow said.

Along with streaming Uneven Fairways, NLT specializes in restoration of municipal golf courses, including the Langston Golf Course in Northeast D.C. which highlights their mission of exposing more youth of color to the game of golf via public golf courses.

"For us at NLT, we personally have a special connection to this story, Langston was built for Black players in the age of segregation," Cosby explained. "It opened in 1939 and is one of the oldest Black golf clubs in the country."

In light of Black female golfers, members of the Wake-Robin Golf Club were in attendance. Founded in 1937 in Lanham, Md., it is America's oldest African American women's golf club. Debbie Tyner, president of the Wake-Robin Golf Club, said the legacy of Powell and those alike set examples of newer generations of Black female golfers.

"This club is 87 years old this coming year and we continue this work by bringing on members and amateurs," Tyner said. "They pass on the legacy of Black women in golf...and I want to see the club change with the times. We're partnering with Howard University who have a very strong women's golf team, and we work with them to provide them with scholarship and mentorship, so in turn, it becomes an intergenerational thing."

### Biden and Harris Fight Back Against House Republicans' Budget Threatening Health Care

In a Fact Sheet, the White House noted that Biden and Harris underscored the administration's commitment during a visit to North Carolina, where they outlined a comprehensive strategy to make health care more affordable for all Americans.

By Stacy M. Brown

Resolute in their stand against the recent budget proposal by House Republicans, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are intensifying their efforts to lower healthcare costs and safeguard crucial provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, and Medicare. In a Fact Sheet, the White House noted that Biden and Harris underscored the administration's commitment during a visit to North Carolina, where they outlined a comprehensive strategy to make health care more affordable for all

Americans.

"The draconian measures in the Republican budget, which the Republican Study Committee created and which the House Republican leadership supported, have alarmed people because they could destroy crucial health care programs," administration officials said. Among its provisions, the budget seeks to slash a staggering \$4.5 trillion from the ACA, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, potentially leaving millions of Americans with

Continue Biden Page 6

Continued Carolyn Page 1

Marilyn Foster; grandsons, William and Jackson Henderson; sister-in-law, Rachel Gail Henderson; brother-in-law, Stephen (Susie) Henderson; nieces, Sharette Kirsten Gray

Patrick, LaGena Kerri Gray Yarbrough, Jone Kala Bullett, Mia Foster and Gail Henderson; nephews, Marcus and Marlon Henderson; adopted sister, Lynda Longstreet-Hall; Goddaughter, Cassidy Hall; and adopted niece,

Chelsea Hall. Waiting to greet Carolyn in Heaven are her parents, Johnnie B. and Opal W. Jones.

A Memorial Service will be held at Black and Clark Funeral Home, 2517 East Illinois Ave., Dallas, TX 75216, at 2:30 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

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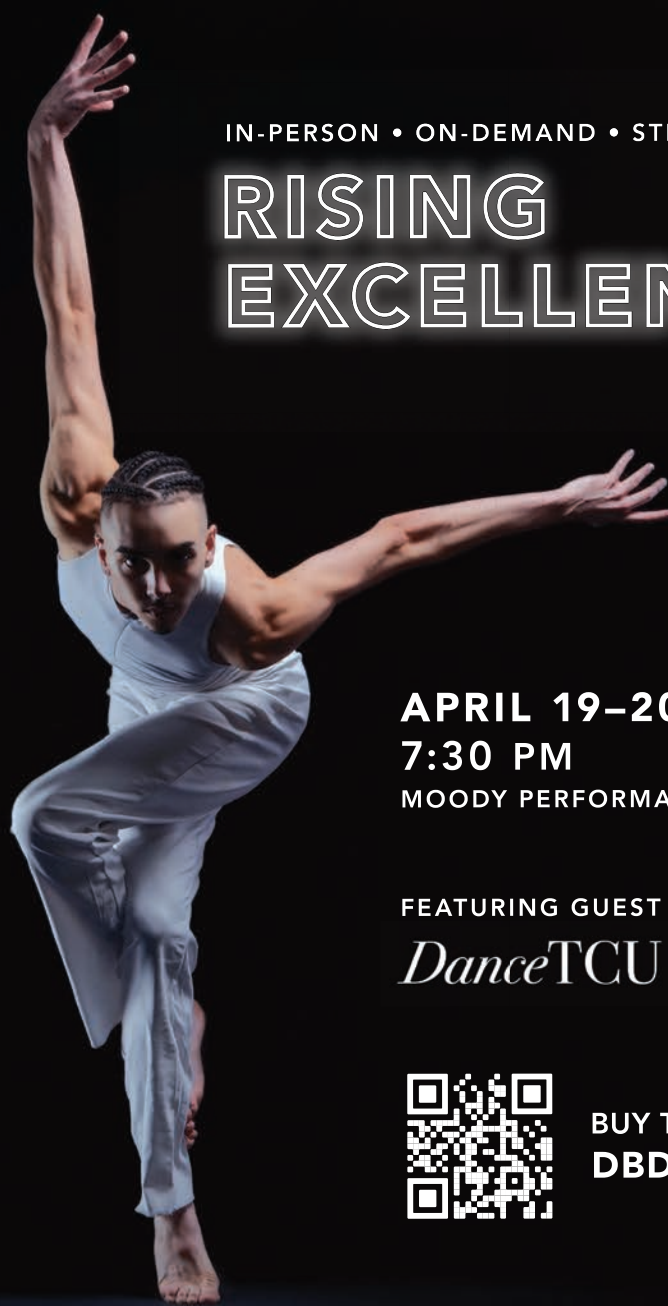
**DallasGo** has replaced ePay to offer customers a more convenient bill paying experience.

For more information on **DallasGo**, visit [dallas.gov/DallasGo](https://dallas.gov/DallasGo) or call DWU Customer Service at 214-651-1441, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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Continued **Biden** Page 5

without access to essential health coverage.

Key aspects of the Republican budget include eliminating funding for the ACA's Marketplace and Medicaid expansion, jeopardizing coverage for over 45 million individuals. Furthermore, the proposed transformation of Medicaid into block grants "could imperil the health care of an additional 60 million Americans, leading to increased difficulty in qualifying for coverage and potential cuts to critical benefits," officials argued.

The budget threatens the well-being of seniors and individuals with disabilities by proposing cuts to Medicaid home care services and nursing home payments, which could result in diminished care quality and longer waitlists for essential services.

In addition to dismantling crucial consumer protections established by the ACA, such as coverage for pre-existing conditions and prohibitions against insurance company abuses, officials said the Republican budget would also convert Medicare into a "premium support" program, potentially raising premiums for millions of seniors and exacerbating prescription drug costs.

"Contrary to this regressive agenda, President Biden and Vice President Harris are staunch advocates for expanding access to affordable health care," officials asserted. "Under their leadership, a record-breaking 21 million Americans



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

have enrolled in ACA coverage this year, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing effort to extend health care to more citizens."

The White House argued that the administration's initiatives have yielded tangible benefits, including average annual savings of \$800 per individual on health insurance premiums. They claimed that the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden championed, has given Medicare the authority to negotiate lower prescription drug costs, ensuring that seniors and people with disabilities can access affordable medications.

Biden and Harris insisted they are committed to further lowering healthcare costs and enhancing coverage for all Americans. Their proposed measures include:

- Making premium tax credits permanent.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage in states that have not adopted expansion.
- Investing in home care services to address waitlists for older adults and individuals with

disabilities. White House officials said the president and vice president's agenda prioritizes mental health care access, consumer protection against surprise medical bills, and crackdowns on unwarranted fees in health care services. By advocating for Medicare to negotiate drug prices for at least 50 drugs annually and capping out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, the administration aims to alleviate financial burdens on individuals while safeguarding the integrity of health care programs.

In contrast to the Republican budget's assault on health care, officials asserted that Biden and Harris remain steadfast in their commitment to protecting and strengthening vital healthcare programs for future generations. "By ensuring that the wealthy contribute their fair share and dedicating savings from Medicare reforms to the program's sustainability, they seek to uphold the fundamental right to accessible and affordable health care for all Americans," officials said.

# Concerning Women's History Month

By **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher  
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

While the month of March has been set aside as Women's History Month, we should be saluting and remembering Black women, in particular, who bore the burden of racism and humiliation that went with being seen as chattel when other women were still seen as women, even without the recognition of citizenship. The real cause for the celebration of Black women in particular is that they still rose to raise children and, much of the time, were single parents because of racism, so often, removing the father from the home by design. So often, these Black mothers spent their best hours each day taking care of other people's children and families at the expense of their own.

Their lives were often a reflection of Langston Hughes's statement: "Life ain't been no crystal stairs" for most. But like Maya Angelo wrote, these

Black women could say, "But still I rise."

The women that we acknowledge in this issue are but a small sample of so many who have done so much. We were among the Daughters of the American Revolution before they decided that they didn't want Marian Anderson to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. because of her color, yet Thomas Jefferson had Sally Hemmings in his bloodline. From slavery to the United States Senate and the Vice Presidency of the United States; from parent and educator to the California Secretary of State as well as C. Delores Tucker becoming the first Black Secretary of State of the State of Pennsylvania, to Scientists, Doctors, Astronauts and United States Ambassador to the United Nations, to now allowing every Black girl to realize that she too can rise and become a woman of substance, if she chooses to do so.



Dr. John E. Warren

Yes, Women's History Month, for many, is limited to the Month of March. But our recognition of Black women must be ongoing as well as reflective of those who paved the way to a future yet to be fully realized. Black Women, we remember your struggles. We love your strength and beauty. We lift you up as the true beacon of all we hope to be as "still you rise".