

Bill to ban texting while driving clears Senate

DISTRACTED DRIVERS



THE DANGERS OF TEXTING & DRIVING

See Page 4



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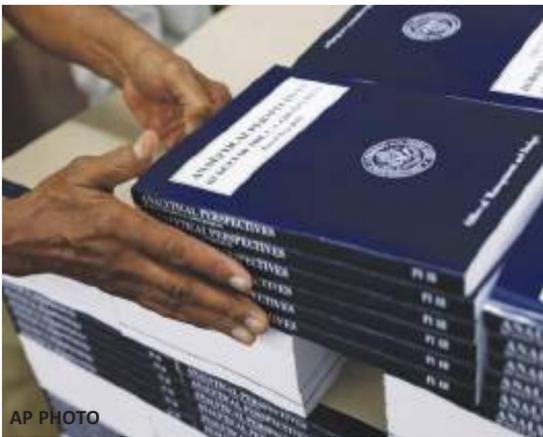
VOLUME 69 NUMBER 34

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 25 - 31, 2017

High dollar PAC causing stir as Dallas runoff elections approach

Trump's \$4.1T budget relies on deep domestic cuts



AP PHOTO

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump's proposed \$4.1 trillion budget slashes safety net programs for the poor, targeting food stamps and Medicaid, while relying on rosy projections about the nation's economic growth to balance the budget within 10 years.

The cuts are part of a budget blueprint for the upcoming fiscal year that amount to a dramatic restructuring of the government, with protection for retirement programs for the elderly, billions of dollars more for the military and the rest of the government bearing the bulk of the reductions.

The plan was outlined in White House summary documents. It will be officially released on Tuesday.

The politically perilous cuts to Medicaid, the federal-state health care for the poor and disabled; college loans, food stamps and federal employee pension benefits guarantee Trump's budget won't go far in Congress, even though Republicans control both the House and Senate. Those cuts follow a partial plan from March that targeted domestic agency operations and foreign aid that were quickly dismissed by lawmakers.

"I just think it's the prerogative of Congress to make those decisions in consultation with the president," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said as he predicted the Medicaid cuts wouldn't survive the Senate. "But almost every president's budget proposal that I know of is basically dead on arrival."

The plan cuts almost \$3.6 trillion from an array of benefit programs and domestic agencies over the coming decade. It assumes Republicans will repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, known as "Obamacare," while reducing Medicaid, eliminating student loan subsidies, sharply slashing food stamps and cutting \$95 billion in the program for highway funds for the states.

Continues on Page 2



Photo Credit: Dallas City Hall Archives

By David Wilfong, NDG Special Contributor

When city council candidate Eric L. Williams stepped up to the microphone during the Monday Night Politics forum on March 20 at Fair Park's African American Museum, he didn't mince words as to why he was running for the District 8 seat in South Dallas.

"I'm not going to drink the Mayor's Kool-aid," Williams said, adding that \$200,000 had "bought" the District race back in 2015.

Allegations of "North Dallas money buying South Dallas elections" is nothing new, but a political action committee (PAC) with a purse approaching just about that amount is causing a stir as the city moves toward runoff races in three districts. According to documents received and compiled by the North Dallas Gazette staff, the "For Our Community PAC" has spent more than \$195,000 on various campaigns in the 2017 election (as of the April 28 filing of campaign expenditures, there were further donations received after that date). The PAC consists of high-dollar donors, with one individual contributing \$100,000 alone. For Our Community PAC is at least linked to Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings through Mari Woodlief, who runs the PAC and is also Rawlings' political consultant.

Williams is no longer in the race for District 8, having been eliminated in the first round of voting. The For Our Community PAC backed his opponent, incumbent Erik Wilson, to the tune of more than \$24,000.

Wilson now faces returning council member Tennell Atkins in a runoff race. Atkins has been quite successful in raising funds himself (out-spending Wilson as of the end of April). Atkins also received the highest number of votes in the May 6 election, but with a wide and diverse field in that race, no candidate gained a clear majority in the first round of voting.

Continues on Page 2

REMEMBERING ATTORNEY DONALD W. HILL



Friends and family of Don Hill gathered at Concord Baptist Church on Saturday, May 20, 2017 to say their "goodbyes".

Don Hill was a native of Austin, Texas. He graduated from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas with a Bachelors' Degree in History. He continued his education by attending Texas Southern University School of Law in Houston, Texas, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

During his life, Don was affiliated with many positions which included:

- He was a licensed attorney in the State of Texas from 1978 with an emphasis in the area of civil litigation, labor and employment. He served as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Dallas, presiding over the Dallas City Council meetings when the mayor was absent and provided leadership on the Council in developing legislation and budgetary matters.

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Dick Vitale signs contract extension with ESPN

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

the struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



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EDITORIAL PAGE

A Little Bit of Faith: God Knows Us



Colleen White, Ed.D.
Editorial Columnist

“You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways” (Psalm 139:3)

Although we often want to know the reasons for the things that happens to us, at times, it’s not for us to know. However, we know a God who knows the reasons for all of our pains, joys, and sorrows and He knows everything little thing

about us.

Our heavenly Father truly has a deep understanding of who we are. There is nothing about us that He does not know about. Therefore, David reminds us that God knows us well. David said, “You discern my going out and my lying down...” (Psalm 139:3). He knows it all. Our God knows us well.

God knows us so well that as we begin to move through our day, He already knows what we are going to encounter. He knows the exact details of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Even though our knowledge is limited, we know that through trusting in God, we can move forward and not worry because God has the master plan for our lives.

We can trust and believe in God because we know that He truly cares for us. If He did not care for us, then He would not have allowed His son to die on the cross. If you are worried about something today, tell it to God and believe that He will handle it. Our trust must be in Him and not our own understanding. Trust Him and He will guide your path. Amen? Amen.

How to Obtain a Mental Illness Warrant

My Day
By Dr. J. Ester Davis

How do you obtain a mental illness warrant? What are the signs? Where do I go?

May is Mental Illness Month. And our national statistic today is that **one-in-five Americans have some form of mental illness.** We cannot continue to ignore these growing numbers. The good news is that mental illness can be treated. In Dallas County, which encompasses thirty-two (32) cities, the Mental Illness Court Offices are conveniently located downtown.

I ran into **Judge Margaret Jones-Johnson, Probate Court #3**, who oversees the Dallas County Mental Illness Court, on the steps of the courthouse some months ago. We chatted for a moment and she mentioned I wish you would write

something on mental illness . . . in May. Sure, I replied.

On the subject of mental illness, too many suffer in silence. We seriously need a national broader conversation because we all know someone who has some mental health signs and we only whisper about it. When in reality so many live in darkness day in and day out about a disorder with healing possibilities. Professionals in this industry cite anxiety, mood, autism, eating and substance use as primary causes. We use terms like bipolar, post-traumatic stress, schizophrenia, depression, insomnia, anger, **weight gain**, frustration, loss of concentration, just to name a few, as long term causes leading to and assisting mental disorders. A “sleep doctor” told me years ago in an interview, that if you are not sleeping, you are dying. Sleep is the most nourishing thing for your brain

and good mental health.

To obtain a mental illness warrant in Dallas County is a simple-step process. In other areas, contact your county offices first. **Warrants** may be issued when a mentally ill person is a danger to self, incapable of taking care of self or a danger to others. There are two central characters in this process. The applicant and the person needing treatment. The applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, have first-hand knowledge of behavior, state specific acts, attempts, any threats and willing to be interviewed by the court clerk. After you finalize the application and complete the interview, a determination is made about the application. The application is taken to the judge for signature, meaning the warrant is approved and then forwarded to the Sheriff’s Department for servicing. If

havoc occurs on weekends or holidays, the Magistrate’s Office at Lew Sterrett Jail is available and/or your local Justice of the Peace in your precinct. Of course, apprehension by a police officer can be done without a warrant. Just know, you are not alone. Help is available.

It is so important that we all have this information and the “how to” to do this. As we all know, things change on a sheer daily basis. These are general guidelines. Call the Mental Illness Court for more direct information. That number is 214.653.6166. Please share. I will share on Facebook also.

Thank you Judge Johnson.

Ester Davis can be reached at www.esterday.com or 214.376.9000.

High dollar PAC causing stir as Dallas runoff elections approach

Continued from Page 1

But District 8 in South Dallas was not at the top of the list for expenditures. With one exception, all the candidates supported by For Our Community PAC are incumbents seeking reelection. The one exception was the District 14 race in which the PAC backed challenger Matt Wood over incumbent Philip T. Kingston. Kingston is often referred to as a thorn in the side of the council’s status quo, opposing the mayor on a variety of issues ranging from the handling of the Police and Fire Pension crisis to the proposed Trinity River tollway.

Between supporting Wood and specifically opposing Kingston, For Our Community PAC’s expenditures in the District 14 race exceeded the six-figure mark, including the production of a video which portrayed Kingston as a rude and combative element on the

city council. Despite the effort, Kingston managed to pass through the May 6 election unscathed, garnering more than 54 percent of the vote outright and avoiding a runoff.

In West Dallas, For Our Community PAC supported incumbent Monica Alonzo, which drew some criticism associated with the reported opposition to HB 2480 by Alonzo’s brother, Texas Sen. Roberto L. Alonzo. The bill which was filed by Texas Rep. Eric Johnson to alleviate pressure from growing property taxes in the West Dallas district caused by the incursion of new investment was killed in a political maneuver by GOP lawmakers in Austin. With a \$10,000 donation to the PAC from the co-founders of West Dallas Investments, some questions of motive were raised.

However, Johnson’s bill was one of more than 100 bills killed by the Republican Freedom Caucus in a move that

is now being called the “Mother’s Day Massacre” and is being chalked up to partisan infighting in the legislature. HB 2480 was officially returned to Calendars Committee on May 12. Also, Alonzo and fellow incumbents Casey Thomas and Rick Callahan received, by far, the lowest level of financial support from the PAC. All three combined totaled less than \$21,000.

The For Our Community PAC also weighed in heavily in the District 7, lending its support of more than \$24,000 to incumbent Tiffinni A. Young. Young received the highest number of votes in the May 6 election, but did not gain a clear majority and will face challenger Kevin Felder in a runoff.

While the contributions of the For Our Community PAC have left many grumbling, no one has suggested the PAC has done anything illegal. All indications are that the election rules were followed and these dona-

tions are allowable.

There are many voices being heard across the country calling for campaign finance reform, and assertions that money plays too big a role in U.S. elections. It was the primary rallying cry of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary. Until such laws are changed, voters can expect to see such PAC activities continue.

(Disclosure: The North Dallas Gazette endorsed eight candidates in the May 6 election. NDG endorsed the same candidate as For Our Community PAC in the District 3 race, Casey Thomas; and endorsed opposing candidates, Tammy Johnston in District 7, and Tennell Atkins in District 8. NDG reached out to For Our Community PAC for comment, but did not receive a reply by press time.)

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BE KIND! Never speak harsh words. Be kind and gentle with your tongue. For it has been said that the tongue can be like a sword. Think long before you criticize your neighbor. Your tongue can be nasty. Living is one of the most beautiful things in the world. But the tongue can kill!

Trump’s \$4.1T budget relies on deep domestic cuts

Continued from Page 1

“We need people to go to work,” White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told reporters Monday. “If you are on food stamps, we need you to go to work. If you are on disability and you should not be, we need you to go back to work.”

The budget plan reflects the small-government views of Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman; Trump has so far displayed little interest in budget issues and the plan is being released while the president is on his first overseas trip.

Trump’s plan promises that overhauling the tax code and easing regulations will lift economic growth from the lackluster 2.1 percent average rate of recent years to sustained annu-

al gains of 3 percent or better. Higher growth means lower deficits and Trump’s plan folds in more than \$2 trillion in unspecified deficit savings over the coming decade from “economic feedback” to promise balance.

Without the juiced-up growth projections, Trump’s plan would be almost \$500 billion in the red instead of sporting a small surplus in 2027, the target year.

Trump would keep campaign pledges to leave core Medicare and Social Security benefits for the elderly alone. His cuts to domestic agencies budgets approved by lawmakers each year would be redirected to the Pentagon. He promises a new parental leave program championed by his daughter Ivanka, but will fall short on his promis-

es for a massive tax cut.

Among the cuts:

- Medicaid would be reduced by more than \$600 billion over 10 years by capping payments to states and giving governors more flexibility to manage their rosters of Medicaid recipients. Those cuts are paired with the repeal of Obamacare’s expansion of the program to 14 million people and amount to, by decade’s end, an almost 25 percent cut from present projections.
- A 10-year, \$191 billion reduction in food stamps — almost 30 percent — goes far, far beyond prior proposals by congressional Republicans. The program serves about 42 million people.
- The budget lands as

Trump’s GOP allies in Congress are grappling with repealing and replacing Obama’s health care law and looking ahead to a difficult rewrite of the loophole-clogged tax code. Trying to balance the budget isn’t in the plan in Congress, but conservative Republicans are pushing for some action this year on spending cuts.

That includes cuts to pensions for federal workers and higher contributions toward those pension benefits, as well as cuts to refundable tax credits paid to the working poor.

On taxes, Trump promises an overhaul that would cut tax rates but rely on erasing tax breaks and economic growth to avoid adding to the deficit. It would create three tax brackets • 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent — instead of the cur-

rent seven.

The budget adds details to the earlier blueprint, which proposed a \$54 billion, 10 percent increase for the military above an existing cap on Pentagon spending, financed by an equal cut to nondefense programs, which meant slashing medical research and foreign aid. Law enforcement and border security would get increases, however.

At least one Cabinet-level official, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, said Monday he would work with Congress to ensure money for the 17 national laboratories and other projects.

During a tour of Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee, Perry said he has “not been in the job long enough to go through the budget line item by line item.”

But Perry, who once called for the abolition of the department, has become an outspoken proponent of the department’s importance, particularly the national labs.

“Hopefully we will be able make that argument to our friends in Congress that what DOE is involved with plays a vital role, not only in the security of America but the economic well-being of the country as we go forward,” Perry said.

Associated Press writers Erik Schelzig in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this report.

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Patrick Worthey
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Harlee Glover
Fred Green
Raymond Hart
David Phillips, Jr.
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

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

Dallas West Church of Christ

3510 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
P. 214-631-5448

Website: www.dwcoc.com



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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Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship
5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 p.m.

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Rev. Joe S. Patterson, Pastor

Services

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Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

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

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.

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Rev. J.L. Eades, Jr., Pastor

Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study (Fri.) - 7:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

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www.pilgrimrestdallas.org

Worship Opportunities
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5th Sunday, Combined Worship:
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Word Out Wednesday Bible Study
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm



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12noon
Wednesdays: 7pm
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2 Timothy 3:16

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

Email Address:
stphillipsmbc@att.net

Schedule of Activities

Sunday
Early Morning Worship- 8AM
Church School- 9AM
Morning Worship- 10AM

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Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 438-2980 Office
www.mountziondallas.org
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Church School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Awana Club 8:30 P.M.
Evening Bible
Exposition 5:30 P.M.
The Lord's Supper
1st Sunday 5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
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Awana Club 7:00 P.M.
Prayer/Bible
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Prayer & Bible Study Meeting
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KPYK 1570 AM

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3918 Crozier Street
Dallas, TX 75215
P. 214-428-3797
Website: www.sibcdallas.com



Rev. Todd M. Atkins, Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship -
11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7:00 p.m.

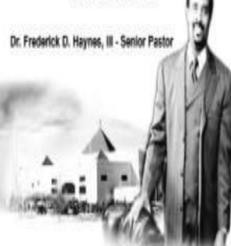
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SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 25	Friday, May 26	Saturday, May 27	Sunday, May 28	Monday, May 29	Tuesday, May 30	Wednesday, May 31
 H-91° L-72°	 H-94° L-76°	 H-94° L-70°	 H-84° L-64°	 H-85° L-65°	 H-86° L-66°	 H-84° L-68°

Dick Vitale signs contract extension with ESPN



(AP) - ESPN basketball analyst Dick Vitale has signed a contract extension with the network through the 2019-20 season.

In adding a year to his previous deal, Vitale will be the main analyst on many network games, including during the regular season and for conference championship tournaments.

A basketball Hall of Famer, Vitale also does work for ESPN.com and ESPN Radio. He began with ESPN in its first season, 1979-80.

"ESPN has been my second family. Everyone knows my love for my wife, kids and grandkids, but ESPN has also been a vital part of my life for 38-plus years," Vitale said. "I've met so many beautiful people there who have meant so much to me. I'm beyond thrilled about this new contract - it's pure joy and jubilation for me and my family."

A former pro and college coach, Vitale, 77 also is known for his charity work, particularly for the V Foundation for Cancer Research.

REMEMBERING ATTORNEY DONALD W. HILL

Continued from Page 1

- Chairman of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA).
- Member of the City of Dallas Finance, Audit, and Accountability Committees.
- Served on the Economic Development and Housing Committee of the City of Dallas.
- Member of the City of Dallas's Transportation and Environmental Committee.
- Served on the Dallas Police and Fire Pension Board.
- Served on the Community and Economic Development Policy Committee for the National League of Cities.
- Chair of Public Safety Committee.
- Vice Chairman of Legislative Affairs.

Some of his numerous honors included:

- Recipient of the Professional Business Award and Law Enforcement and Community Award, 1993.
- Recipient of the Celebration of African American Men Award, 1996.
- Recipient of the Community Man of the year, 2000.
- Recipient of the National Association of Black Public's Outstanding Service Award, 2004.
- Recipient of Ethiopian Mutual Assistance Association's Certificate of Recognition, 2004.
- Recipient of the Community Bridge Builder Award presented by Citizens of Joppa Community, 2006.
- Recipient of the Justice Award of Excellence presented by A. Maceo Smith, 2006.
- Received the 4th Annual Black History Award
- Recipient of the Dallas Area Real Estate Board's Special Recognition Award, 2007.
- Recipient of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension's Certificate of Recognition of Service on the Board of Trustees, 2007.

All information was taken from Don Hill's Biography which was written by him on July 7, 2015 when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer.

Ensuring the Promise of the Every Student Succeeds Act

By Dr. Elizabeth Primas (Program Manager, NNPA/ESSA Media Campaign)

During the month of May, many of us celebrated the 63rd anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. The unanimous 1954 ruling by the United States Supreme Court declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Last week, the National Newspaper Publishers Association partnered with the Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage for a special tribute to the first African American Supreme Court Justice. We also reflected on the significance of an improved national education law. The preservation of Thurgood Marshall's legacy is dependent upon our dedication to our children.

In a column for The Washington Post, Richard Rothstein, a research associate at the Economic Policy Institute, noted that, "Today, nearly half of all black students attend majority black schools, with over 70 percent in high-poverty school districts."

High poverty school districts are often overwhelmed by the external consequences of poverty that distract students from learning and prevent effective classroom instruction. Chronic absenteeism, poor nutrition, and various forms of abuse, are a few of the challenges facing high poverty school districts. Although, in-school psychological and academic resources cannot eliminate these challenges completely, they do help to mitigate their effects. Yet, many of these programs are routinely underfunded.

So, on the 63rd anniversary of the landmark decision to integrate educational institutions in the United States, we ask ourselves the question, "How far have we come?" We struggled to be allowed to get an education. We fought to have equal access to quality education. We endured forced integration, only to be placed at the back of the classroom and

ignored.

The Every Student Succeeds Act attempts (ESSA) to fulfill the promise of a high-quality education for all of our children. ESSA advocates for qualified teachers, high standards, a robust programs, and assessments, which inform classroom instruction. The law, which was passed during the Obama Administration, also returns some responsibilities to create innovative and equitable educational policies back to Local Education Agencies (LEA).

In response to the passage of ESSA in December 2015, thirty-seven civil rights and education groups issued the following statement, "The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our nation's most important civil rights law for promoting educational achievement and protecting the rights and interests of students disadvantaged by discrimination, poverty and other conditions that may limit their educational opportunity."

So, yes, we acknowledge that a single law won't solve all of the challenges facing our community, but we still have a duty to continue the fight for equity in education for the benefit of our children, especially poor students and students of color. The key to the success of this education law rest in the hands of parents and communities across the nation.

Together, we can fulfill the promise of ESSA and ensure that every student succeeds.

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act at nnpa.org/essa.

Dr. Elizabeth Primas is an educator, who spent more than 40 years working towards improving education for children of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds. Dr. Primas is the program manager for the NNPA's Every Student Succeeds Act Media Campaign. Follow Dr. Primas on Twitter @elizabethprimas.

NAACP PRESIDENT CORNELL BROOKS VOTED OUT

By Lauren Victoria Burke (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Why did the NAACP's national board vote to part ways with their president, Cornell William Brooks? Several longtime members contacted by the NNPA Newswire were shocked to hear the news. Brooks, 56, has served in the position since May 2014. Some NAACP insiders said that there was a lack of communication between the NAACP's large board of directors and Brooks. Others say that a lack of fundraising prowess was the reason.

On the day the board voted to end Brooks' tenure as president (his current contract expires on June 30), NAACP Board Chairman Leon Russell announced that the 108 year-old organization is "re-tooling" and embarking

on "an organization-wide refresh" in response to the "audacious challenges" in "today's volatile political, media and social climates."

During an interview with American Urban Radio Networks, Brooks was asked why he was being let go. He responded: "I can't point to any substantive reason. What I can point to is this: the NAACP over the course of less than three years, is more visible, more vocal, growing in members, donors, presence in the courts and in communities across the country."

Brooks continued: "We've had nine court victories against voter suppression in ten months. We not only demonstrated in Flint, we filed suit in Flint...online membership is up 87 percent and online paper membership is up seven percent. Online donations are up 800

percent," Brooks added. On May 21, Brooks was bombarded on Twitter with positive praise from well-wishers for his three years as NAACP President.

Brooks was also instrumental in spotlighting the damage President Donald Trump's Attorney General Jeff Sessions will likely do to voting rights with a demonstration in Alabama that resulted in Brooks' highly publicized arrest.

During a May 19 media call on the end of Brooks' presidency, NAACP National Board Chairman Leon Russell and Vice Chair Derrick Johnson told reporters that the search for a new leader will start immediately and focus on, "renewed nimbleness and vigilance so that we can aggressively respond to the current climate of political unrest as well as the assault on human rights."

Russell also added that, "we don't have a job description in front of us."

Russell said that there would be a, "system-wide and strategic revisiting of processes...that will ensure the NAACP can address these 21st century challenges."

Russell also said that he and Johnson would manage the day-to-day NAACP operations on an interim basis until a replacement for Brooks is found. They also announced a NAACP "listening tour" in an effort to be informed "by the people we serve" and to "harness grassroots energy" while at the same time listening also to current staff, past leaders in the Civil Rights Movement and "philanthropic" groups.

The NAACP makes this startling leadership change at an incredibly crucial time. President Donald Trump is reeling amidst accusations of

collusion with the Russian government, during the 2016 election season and obstruction of justice involving former FBI Director Jim Comey's investigation of it. Attorney General Sessions easily represents one of the biggest threats to policy issues disproportionately impacting African Americans.

But the NAACP has clearly taken a back seat in terms of national attention. Younger, tighter and more focused movements such as Black Lives Matter, Color of Change and now The Indivisible Movement have leveraged social media and narrowed priorities to push there agendas as the NAACP has remained in a traditionalist managerial model that would appear ill-suited for the times.

The vote by the 64-member NAACP national board to part ways with Brooks took

place during a quarterly board meeting in Florida and on the same day that Dr. Rev. William Barber stepped down as NAACP North Carolina State President. Barber has led the Moral Mondays movement in North Carolina and won political and public relations attention as a result. He is now focused on a diverse "poor people's campaign" modeled after Dr. Martin Luther King's own work.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a speaker, writer and political analyst. She appears on "NewsOne Now" with Roland Martin every Monday. Lauren is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

Lowering your chance of having a stroke if you have diabetes

When you have diabetes, you have a greater chance of having a stroke. People who have diabetes are two to four times more likely to have a stroke than people who do not have the disease, according to the National Stroke Association. They also tend to develop heart disease or have strokes at an earlier age.



BE FASTT

Stroke is an emergency. It's important for you, your family and your friends to know the signs of someone having a stroke – just remember BE FASTT:

- Balance: Do they have a sudden loss of balance?
- Eyes: Do they have a sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes?
- Facial droop: When they smile, does one side of their face droop?
- Arm drift: When they raise both arms, does one arm drift downward?
- Slurred speech: When they repeat a sentence, are any of the words slurred?
- Terrible headache: Do they have a sudden, severe headache with other neurological deficits?
- Time is key: If a person

shows any of the above symptoms, call 911.

What can you do?

You have control over some of these risk factors. It's important to take steps to keep your heart and blood vessels healthy to lower your risk of having a stroke.

You can lower your chances of having a stroke by quitting smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a balanced diet, being physically active and limiting alcohol.

Talk to your doctor about other ways to reduce your chance of having a stroke and to keep your diabetes under control.

To learn more about diabetes, go to www.parkland-hospital.com/diabetesfacts.

Know the risks

If you have diabetes, you already have an increased risk of having a stroke. Your risk is even greater if:

- you are older than 55
- you are African American
- you've already had a stroke or a mini-stroke
- you have a family history of stroke or mini-stroke
- you have heart disease
- you have high blood pressure
- you are overweight
- you have high bad (LDL) cholesterol and low good (HDL) cholesterol levels
- you are not physically active
- you smoke



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Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers

Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

Life Reflections

Melvin O. Lee, Sr. was born September 3, 1926 to the parentage of Theodore and Hazel Lee. He was married to Pearl M. Lee for 42 years. She preceded him in death in 2002.

Melvin obeyed the Gospel at an early age and was a member of Mesquite Heights Church of Christ. Later the congregation moved to Garza Avenue Church of Christ. After many years of membership, service, and transitioning back to Dallas, he became a member of Seagoville & Stark Church of Christ.

He worked as a truck driver for 32 years at Jefferson Smurfitt.

His legacy continues through his son, Melvin Lee Jr. (Rosie); daughter, Beverly Johnson; sisters-in-law, Alberta Lee (Horace Lee) and Dorothy Lee (Theodore Lee); grandchildren, Antonio, Wendell (preceded him in death), Cameron, Darrell (Avis), Jessica (Joshua), Stephan, Eric, Melvin III Kamala and Michael; ten great grandchildren, a host of loving nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends that loved him dearly.



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Unlocking DOORS

On Friday, March 31, Unlocking DOORS™, Texas' cutting-edge community reentry network for ex-offenders, opened new state headquarters and Client Resource Center, named in honor of the Texas Bar Foundation - which will provide countless services, resources and networking opportunities to Unlocking DOORS™ clients as they find their way to a future of self-sufficiency that is crime-free.



Federal Judge Dismisses 'Clock Boy' Lawsuit



Ahmed Mohamed (photo: @IStandWithAhmed)

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by the father of a boy arrested after taking a homemade clock to his school. At the time of the incident, officials claimed that the device appeared to be an explosive.

Mohamed Mohamed, who's family is Muslim, was suing the city of Irving and its school district, alleging his son's civil rights were violated.

Back in February, The mayor of Irving was dropped as a defendant from a lawsuit filed by Mohamed.

Mohamed's attorney, Susan Hutchison, said Mayor Beth Van Duyne in her capacity as a public official was afforded immunity in the matter.

The original suit claimed Van Duyne and others were libelous in their statements about Ahmed Mohamed after he brought the clock to school in 2015.

A charge of having a hoax bomb was dropped.

"These acts by the authorities show blatant disregard for the civil rights of this American," said attorney Susan Hutchison in a statement back in August.

The teenager from Irving was arrested in September of 2015 after bringing a homemade clock to Irving MacArthur High School. Police officers put then 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed into handcuffs and walked him out of the school when his clock was mistaken for a bomb.

The story — including pictures of the incident — quickly gained worldwide attention. While many people on social media were quick to show support for Mohamed, the high school freshman and his family also received several violent threats. That forced the family to move overseas so that the teen could study in Qatar. "I get a lot of hate," Mohamed stated in August. "I got a lot of support in the beginning, but it's the hate that sticks."

According to court records, the family has until June 1st to file an amended complaint. The case was dismissed on May 18.