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ONE WEEK COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY IS ON!

Article Page 2

New COVID-19 Variant HV.1 Emerges as Dominant Strain in the U.S.

Experts Advise Caution but Not Alarm

By Stacy M. Brown

As COVID-19 continues to evolve, a new variant has emerged, garnering attention from health officials across the United States. Known as HV.1, the latest variant has shown a significant surge in cases, raising questions about its potential impact on public health.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HV.1 was first identified in mid-summer, but it wasn't until September that cases began to spike, making it the cause of nearly 20% of all COVID-19 cases in the country.

Infectious disease experts, including Dr. Amesh A. Adalja and Dr. Thomas Russo, told the health and wellness website Prevention.com that they have classified HV.1 as an Omicron XBB variant, descending from the EG.5 variant. They said the line-

age highlights its genetic connection to the original Omicron strain.

According to Prevention.com, one of the concerning features of HV.1 is its spike protein, which has undergone notable

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Ty's Final Touch

BY A'NEASE LINNEAR



BY A'NEASE LINNEAR /Photo Credit: THE HUD

When boredom strikes and there's a sewing machine around, it's amazing what can happen. At least that was the case for Ty'Viana (Ty) W., a junior at Lincoln High School and a member of the school's Purple Flash dance team.

As an eighth-grader in 2020 when the pandemic struck, Ty said, "I was randomly scrolling on Google and came across the term fashion designer, researched it, and decided that's what I wanted to do with my life."

When she shared her plan with her parents, they immediately went to buy her a sewing machine, investing in her creativity. Ty did what any young teen would do and lost interest for a while, letting the machine collect dust bun-

nies until boredom struck again. Then, once again on the internet, she decided to check YouTube for how to make a mask, and from that her business, Ty Wood's Final Touch, was

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Denver Court Hears Arguments on Trump's Eligibility for 2024 Ballot

*Lawsuit Alleges Violation of 14th
Amendment, Capitol Attack Involvement*

By Stacy M. Brown

Denver district court is considering a lawsuit to prevent former President Donald Trump from appearing on Colorado's 2024 ballot due to his alleged involvement in the U.S. Capitol attack on January 6, 2021. Colorado Judge Sarah Wallace recently rejected Trump's attempt to dismiss the case, which was filed last month on behalf of six voters in the Denver district.

The lawsuit is based on Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. It argues that people who have participated in insurrection or rebellion after promising loyalty to the Constitution should not be able to hold office. Trump, who is currently facing 91 criminal charges after four federal and state indictments, could potentially receive a prison sentence of over 800 years. The lawsuit accuses him of breaking his promise as president by attempting to overturn the 2020 election, which ultimately led to the January 6 insur-

rection.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), along with several law firms, filed a lawsuit on behalf of six voters from the Republican Party and independent voters. Eric Olson, from CREW, began his testimony by explaining what Trump did before January 6. This included a tweet he sent in December 2020 asking his supporters to come together in Washington, D.C. Olson highlighted Trump's frequent mentions of January 6. He stated that Trump motivated his followers by making false allegations of election fraud.

Olson showed a video clip of Trump's speech on the Ellipse on January 6. In the speech, the former president said, "Let's go to the Capitol." He argued that Trump was acutely aware of the influence of his words and that his speech before the Capitol

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Flavor Flav's Viral National Anthem Performance Shakes the Internet

Written by Stacy M. Brown



It's not every day that a rap icon takes center stage to perform the national anthem at an NBA game, but Flavor Flav, whose real name is William Drayton, Jr., did just that, and he's gone viral for it. The 64-year-old rapper and media personality delivered an

unforgettable rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Milwaukee Bucks game against the Atlanta Hawks on October 29, and the internet is still buzzing.

Flavor Flav, known for

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EDITORIAL PAGE

The Lewiston Maine Shootings Indicate Again That America Must Ban Assault Weapons

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Have you ever heard the expression, “a hard head makes a soft behind”? Mothers back in the day made that one of their signature sayings. There are some things in life where we know what’s right, but we won’t do what’s right. We are stubborn and set in our ways. It doesn’t matter how much proof we have to the contrary. Must we experience so much pain and suffering before we change?

Will this be the case with the mass shooting that happened last Wednesday in Lewiston Maine? There were 18 people tragically killed at a bowling alley and restaurant. This is the deadliest mass shooting this year. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there

have been at least 565 mass shootings in America during 2023. This averages out to be almost 2 mass shootings per day. Reports indicate at this time last year we had 559 mass shootings. We can all agree these numbers are staggering.

Some people suggest that mass shootings have become the American way. All of us know this is not the American way and needs to stop.

Robert Card, a US Army reservist was the shooter in this tragedy as 13 people were also injured. A 2-day manhunt for Card ended on Friday. Apparently, he took his own life, and his body was found inside a box trailer on recycling center property. He was 40 years of age. Mike Sauschuck, commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety has confirmed this information.

Maine Governor Janet Mills said, “Like many people I’m breathing a sigh of relief that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone.” President Joe Biden called it “a tragic two days not just for Lewiston Maine but for our entire country”.

reports, Card suffered from mental illness. He was hospitalized briefly some months ago because of it.

As we know, Robert Card had purchased other weapons leading up to this vicious and vile attack on humanity. These weapons were purchased legally and did not raise any suspicion.

The weapon used by the shooter was an assault rifle. We know from other mass shootings that this has been the weapon used. As recently as July 20th of this year, law enforcement officials met at the White House to discuss getting their support for stronger legislation on how to reduce gun violence in this country. The focus was on assault weapons and getting stronger legislation passed.

Has this senseless crime changed the minds of any lawmakers in Congress? Yes, it has. Representative Jared Golden of Maine, a Democrat has called for a ban on assault weapons. Reports say he asked for forgiveness and support from the people of Lewiston and the loved ones of the victims and survivors. That is a direct quote from him.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York applauded his comments and called them powerful, brave and moving. Will others join Mr. Golden and create a movement for change? This animus doesn’t have to exist. Sadly, tragedy must happen in your own backyard before you see the consequences of your inaction. This is what happened to him. As citizens, we must get our representatives who we elect to pass legislation which will ban assault weapons. How many lives must be lost, how much blood shed, and tearful phone calls made before we do something about this American atrocity? American families have been torn apart because of gun violence. This time, the families were in Lewiston Maine. We are haunted by our inability to act. This is a living nightmare which will only end when we take assault weapons off our streets. It was Lewiston Maine this time. Where will it be next time? That will be the question until we have a ban on assault weapons.

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One Week Countdown To Election Day Is On!

Early voting is underway as Texans decide the fate of 14 Constitutional Amendments including a \$1B Fund to Grow Texas Parks for Future Generations

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Election Day is just one week away, but Texans can vote early through Friday, November 3rd. Voters are deciding on 14 propositions, including one—Proposition 14—that would create the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund. More than 90 groups have formed the Texas Coalition for State Parks in support of the \$1 billion fund, which would allow the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to buy land from willing sellers when unique properties that would make for beautiful State Parks become available.

“With a thousand people a day moving to Texas, there is no doubt we need more State Parks,” said Joseph Fitzsimons, co-founder of the Coalition. “Our State Parks attract nearly 10 million visitors annually, and the current supply can’t keep up with the demand. Current and future generations deserve to experience Texas’ great outdoors. Earlier this year, legislation to the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund on the ballot passed both chambers of the Texas Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support. Lawmakers have allocated the \$1 billion investment to

secure and develop new State Parks without raising taxes – now it’s up to Texas voters to approve it.”

The ballot language of Proposition 14 is: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

“The beauty is that these funds have already been set aside by the Legislature from the state’s budget surplus. It just needs voter approval,” said George Bristol, conservationist, historian, and author of Texas State Parks: The First 100 Years. “The constitutional amendment is a good investment of taxpayer dollars with a strong return on investment for Texas’ future.”

To find out if you are registered to vote or learn what else may be on the ballot in your community, visit VoteTexas.gov.

Investing in parks conserves land and water resources which protects Texas’ quality of life so future generations can enjoy our land, water, and natural beauty the way we do. A “YES” vote on Proposition 14 will secure land to create new parks in the Lone Star State for future Texans to enjoy.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

WALKING AS CHILDREN OF GOD



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

EPHESIANS 5:1-6:9 PART II

In the Pauline epistles, the word “walking” was used as a metaphor denoting one’s personal conduct. In the first three chapters of this grand book of Ephesians, Paul expounded on the new life of the believers and the new unity they embraced together in the body of Christ. Beginning with chapter 4, the apostle began to apply those truths in a practical way. The word “walk” appears five times in chapters 4 and 5 (4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15). Ephesians 5:1-6:9 may be outlined as follows: I. The Command to Walk in

Love – Ephesians 5:1-7; II. The Command to Walk in the Light – Ephesians 5:8-14; III. The Command to Walk in Wisdom – Ephesians 5:15-21; IV. Following Biblical Guidelines for the Family and in Relation to Servants and Masters – Ephesians 5:22-6:9.

II. The Command to Walk in the Light – Ephesians 5:8-14

In our former depraved condition, we were in spiritual darkness; however, after receiving Christ, we became “light

in the Lord” (v. 8). Now, Paul commands us to “walk as children of light.” Since we belong to the light and possess the light of Christ, we are to conduct our lives in a way that allows light to be clearly seen. The “fruit” or end product of God’s light in us is “goodness and righteousness and truth” (v. 9). These qualities should be present and transparent in the lives of those who claim to be walking in the light (I John 2:9).

In verse 10, believers are to walk as children of light, discerning what pleases the Lord. The

word “proving” means to examine, to put to the test, or to verify. We are to be careful in our discernment to seek what God desires and confirming His approval by faithfully obeying His word in all matters. As children of light, we are to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (v. 11). These works of darkness are immoral and wicked, some of those deeds discussed by Paul in verses 3-5.

Sin in the life of a believer bears no fruit. As believers, we are to reprove the spiritual

deeds of darkness. The word “reprove” means to expose something, to show it for what is really is. Exposing sin does not necessarily mean talking about it, “for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (v. 12). As believers, we are to avoid becoming fascinated with what goes on in people’s lives in secret. Such fascination can only bring harm or hurt. Rather than dwelling on the varieties of sin taking place, believers should concentrate on using the light of Christ to make sin’s evil evident to those

who practice it. The things that are to be exposed “are made manifest by the light” (v. 13). Things done in darkness cannot escape the penetration of light when it is turned on. In verse 14, Paul issues an urgent plea for unbelievers to trust Christ and be raised from the deadly grasp of sin. Paul could also be urging believers to emerge completely from his sleep and arise and withdraw from the wicked ways of the company of the spiritually dead.

May God Bless!

Continued Ty Page 1
born.

“It was really easy for me to learn. I didn’t go to anyone for help,” she said, “I sat and watched a couple of videos, then it kind of just came to me.”

Starting her business during the pandemic, Ty began by creating matching mask sets. That soon transitioned to making accessories, then expanded to clothing. She was her own first client, designing

her dress for the homecoming sneaker ball with accessories to match.

After creating her own dress, she decided to seek help from an experienced seamstress to learn how to make prom dresses. And from there was born what she calls “The Red Dress.”

“I started getting calls for designs, alterations, and so much more,” Ty says.

During that same prom season, she got a call to make her favorite piece to

date, “The Blue Dress.” This was the defining moment that made her realize she was doing exactly what she was called to do.

“After I delivered the dress, I got into my car and cried because I really did that,” she says. “It clicked for me. Although this wasn’t my first prom dress, it was definitely my best, and I told myself I have to keep going for real now.”

With her parents’ support – they even took her to

New York City to visit her dream school, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and then made the master bedroom her new sewing space – she kept designing.

This time, instead of waiting to be asked, Ty took the initiative and asked her coach if she could design the team’s dance uniforms. It was just in time for Lincoln’s big football game against James Madison High School, also known as the “Southside Superbowl.”

“We always wear the same outfits, so please let me make some new ones,” Ty pleaded with her coach.

When the coach obliged, she sprang into action, gathering inspirational pictures to send to her team officers, and soon a final design was selected. In a month filled with multiple practices a day, kick-starting her junior year, working at Whataburger, and getting little sleep, all 15 uniforms were completed in time for the big

game. “Every time it gets hard, I tell myself, going through this is going to be hard, but I promise you’re going to like what you’ve created when you’re done,” she says.

This young entrepreneur doesn’t have any plans to let up anytime soon. She wants to continue designing for her team and community while putting the money she makes into savings to support her New York City dreams.

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changes from the EG.5 variant. While the full implications of these alterations are not yet fully understood, the rapid increase in cases—from 0.5% in mid-July to nearly 20% in mid-October—suggests a high level of transmissibility.

Despite the rise in cases, experts remain cautiously optimistic. Dr. Adalja emphasized that new variants of SARS-CoV-2 are expected, and most may not pose a significant threat. Dr. William Schaffner told Prevention.com that, so far, HV.1 doesn’t appear to cause more severe illness than other circulating variants.

Symptoms associated with HV.1 largely mirror those of previous strains, including fever, cough, fatigue, and loss of taste or smell. However, it tends to manifest as a more common cold-like

illness, with symptoms like congestion and a runny nose being prominent.

Regarding prevention, the updated COVID-19 vaccine based on the XBB.1.5 variant is expected to protect individuals from HV.1. The new variant is considered a “grandchild” of XBB.1.5, and experts anticipate the vaccine will effectively mitigate severe cases.

While HV.1 is rising, health officials urge the public to maintain standard precautions. This includes vaccination, proper hand hygiene, and avoiding close contact with visibly unwell individuals. For added protection, N95 or Kn95 face masks are recommended.

“COVID is still with us. If you develop symptoms, test yourself ASAP and contact your doctor if you’re positive. You may be a candidate for an antiviral medication,” Dr. Russo underscored.

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riot exacerbated the situation.

“We are here because Trump claims, after all that, that he has the right to be president again,” Olson asserted. “But our Constitution, the shared charter of our nation, says he cannot do so.”

During his opening arguments, Scott Gessler, Trump’s legal representative, decried the lawsuit as “antidemocratic” and said Monday’s hearing was “politicized.” Gessler argued that Trump used the word “peace” several times during his speech at the Ellipse on January 6, as well as in his tweets on the same day. He claimed that the lawsuit wants the court to approve the January 6 Committee’s report, which he described as a biased and harmful report.

Officer Daniel Hodges, from the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, testi-

fied about his terrifying ordeal during the Capitol attack. Hodges described observing Capitol rioters donning tactical gear, an occurrence that left him “very uncomfortable.” He suffered many injuries when rioters attacked the Capitol, including bruises, a head injury, cuts on his face, and bleeding from his mouth. Hodges also attested that a rioter attempted to gouge his eye. He remembered protesters yelling and encouraging others to fight for Trump. They also criticized law enforcement for being on the wrong side of history.

During his remote testimony, Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Democrat from California, stated that Trump had clearly indicated before the 2020 election that he would not acknowledge the results if he was not the winner. Swalwell claimed that Trump escalated his rhetoric after legal challenges to the election

results were dismissed. He told the lawmakers’ increasing worry when Trump announced, “We’re going to the Capitol” in his Ellipse speech. He then described the distressing experiences of himself and his colleagues as rioters entered the Capitol.

In her ruling last week, Wallace dismissed Trump’s argument that Congress, not the courts, can handle questions about ballot eligibility. She disagreed with Trump’s statement that state election officials cannot enforce Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.

Wallace argued that the clause allows Congress to remove a constitutional disability if a person is disqualified. However, the clause does not specify which government body would decide on such disability initially.

“The Court notes, however, it would be strange for Congress to be the only entity that is empow-

ered to determine the disability and then also the entity that is empowered to remove it,” Wallace wrote. “States can, and have, applied Section 3 pursuant to state statutes without federal enforcement legislation,” Wallace said.

The judge’s ruling followed a decision by Chief U.S. District Judge Philip A. Brimmer to dismiss Trump’s request to move the Colorado ballot case to federal court. In a four-page order, Brimmer, a nominee of George W. Bush, stated that Trump, who was found responsible for sexually assaulting a journalist by a civil jury this year, did not properly follow the necessary procedures to involve Colorado’s Democratic Secretary of State, Jena Griswold, or get her approval to transfer the case to federal court. As a result, Trump’s attempt to move the case is considered “defective.”

Continued Flavor Page 1

his signature clock necklace, sunglasses, and larger-than-life persona, stepped onto the court in a Bucks jersey, fulfilling a lifelong dream by singing the national anthem. “It’s been on my bucket list for a

while,” Flavor Flav shared. “I’ve always wanted to do it, and I’m so glad I got the chance.”

The rapper’s appearance at the Bucks game was another milestone in his remarkable journey of redemption and resurgence. Flavor Flav has faced per-

sonal challenges and substance abuse battles in the past, but he’s come back stronger and more determined than ever. Even a public feud with Public Enemy’s Chuck D a few years ago couldn’t keep him down. The iconic duo, rap music’s quintessential

Batman and Robin, have since quashed any perceived beef and continue to make music history.

Flavor Flav’s recent appearances have showcased his newfound positivity and love for life. He wowed audiences at a star-studded event in Los

Angeles last week honoring Lyor Cohen and delighted fans and fellow passengers by passing out snacks and goodies on a recent airline flight. His presence at Taylor Swift concerts and the premiere of her latest movie have brought a smile to many faces, with Flavor

proudly declaring himself a “Swiftie.”

For his performance in Milwaukee, Flavor belted out the national anthem with his trademark energy and style, his clock necklace swinging as he sang.

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Continued Flavor Page 3

His performance took the internet by storm, with fans and viewers sharing their thoughts on X (formerly known as Twitter).

One user marveled at the unconventional choice of having Flavor Flav sing the national anthem, writing, "Flava Flav singing the national anthem at an NBA game just definitely convinced me I'm not dreaming big enough." Another user playfully questioned the decision, asking, "I just wanna know, who in the meeting raised their hand and said, 'let's book Flava Flav.'"

Former football player turned sports journalist Shannon Sharpe offered a critical opinion of the performance, but fans rallied to support him. Rapper and podcaster Memphis Jelks fired back with, "Flav has more talent in his pinky toe than Shannon has in his entire being!! Keep up the greatness Flav!!"

Flavor Flav's performance even made its way to the National Newspaper Publishers Association's morning show, "Let It Be Known," where the rapper's national anthem rendition received a dedicated segment alongside a 1983 clip of soul legend Marvin Gaye's performance of the song at the NBA All-Star game. Flavor Flav gave Let It Be Known a thumbs up.

Flavor Flav's journey of redemption and his viral national anthem performance have proven that it's never too late for a comeback. His larger-than-life personality, unique style, and undying passion for music continue to captivate audiences, and he remains a beloved figure in the entertainment world.

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2421	Cash Winfall Overall Odds are 1 in 6.83	\$10	12/20/23	6/17/24

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Quinn Minute

My average face

By Rix Quinn

Have you ever been told you look like somebody famous?

A couple years ago, several friends and I sat around a lunch table, and tried to judge who our companions resembled. My friend Jim said, "Quinn, you just have a generic face."

"That's not an insult," he added. "You look like somebody everybody knows, but whose name they can't remember."

Jim was right. As I surveyed our group, I quickly identified people who looked sort of like presidents, or movie stars, or astronauts, or comedians.

But, I look like the guy you see at the mall, but you can't remember which store I work for. Or, I resemble a teacher you liked in high school, or somebody you see downtown in the coffee shop.

Sometimes I'm grateful for my average face. When I was in my 20s, it was a real money-saver. How?

In my town are two seminaries, where folks train to be ministers. I've had many jobs in my life, but preacher is definitely not one.

However, for a few years, one restaurant recognized me as a young, bright seminarian.

Whenever I went there, they greeted me warmly, and ask how I was doing in my studies.

I told the cashiers they had me mixed up with an actual preacher, but they didn't believe me. They frequently gave me free soft drinks, or a complimentary meal.

I have wondered whatever happened to that young preacher who looked like me. Did he eat free as often as I did?

I often took my first dates to that generous restaurant. If that date didn't like me, I hadn't

spent much money on her.

Sadly, my face aged out of the eager young student look, and I began to resemble somebody's cousin.

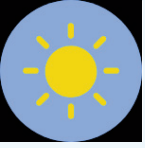
I became the guy you think you saw at a family reunion, but you are not sure what branch of the family.

My face is slowly sagging into that of a kindly uncle, one who tells funny stories and is welcome everywhere.

Which means that pretty soon, people may think they actually know me... and I can maybe get offered some free meals again!

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Nov. 2	Friday, Nov. 3	Saturday, Nov. 4	Sunday, Nov. 5	Monday, Nov. 6	Tuesday, Nov. 7	Wednesday, Nov. 8
 H - 58° L - 43°	 H - 65° L - 55°	 H - 72° L - 59°	 H - 74° L - 63°	 H - 79° L - 59°	 H - 72° L - 57°	 H - 71° L - 53°

The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation Fall Food Drive

to provide up to 1,000 families with Thanksgiving meals on Thursday, November 9, at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center

Presented by The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation and in partnership with Dallas Tennis Association, the drive-through event will provide each family with a turkey, a variety of sides, dessert, drinks, giveaways and more; local law enforcement officers and firefighters to volunteer for meal distribution

Fully Fund our Future Act: A Commitment to Texas Children

By State Representative Mihaela E. Plesa

When I was elected to represent my district in Collin County, I didn't just take a job, I took an oath. I vowed to uphold the Constitution and protect her from threats both foreign and domestic. My faith in our Constitution is whole, which includes Article 7. Section 1, "make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

I believe that public education is the cornerstone of our society, an investment in our state's future, a commitment to our children's dreams and aspirations, and the bedrock of the Texas Miracle. It seems that Governor Abbott and Lieutenant Dan Parick have turned a blind eye to Article 7. Section 1. Perhaps their judgement has been clouded by donations from two West Texas oil billionaires who are pushing voucher scams on everyday Texas for their own profit.

The Texas Legislature has been fighting against voucher schemes since 1957 when they were introduced as a way for white wealthy kids to leave integrated public schools. Texas said "no" to vouchers then and has rejected vouchers for decades. Now these voucher scams have reared their ugly head again in the 88th legislative session, but our bipartisan coalition is stronger than ever and we will continue to refuse any and all discriminatory scams that take taxpayer money away from our public schools.

Texas ranks 43rd in the nation for per-student funding because our legislature continuously underfunds our schools. Which, after years of political games, has resulted in a \$40 billion funding gap. With our state's historic budget surplus, it is unacceptable that our students continue to suffer from overcrowded classrooms, underpaid and exhausted teachers, entire school buildings closing and a lack of resources for afterschool programs. With Texas being the 8th largest economy in the world and a historic surplus, our state has the capital to fully fund our public schools. Meaning, the real issue is not one of capability, but the lack of political will from our current leadership.

Public education is one of the best investments our state can make and voucher scams redirect those precious tax dollars to unaccountable private corporations who seek to spend taxpayer money without public oversight or scrutiny. Voucher programs are extremely expensive and have led some states like Arizona into financial jeopardy. Implementing vouchers in Texas is dangerous and outright bad policy for our state.

In the battle over the future of public education in Texas, my commitment to our public schools is unwavering. This is why I am a proud supporter and co-author of the comprehensive, bipartisan Fully Fund our

Continue Fund Page 6



Photo Credit: iStockphoto /NNPA

DALLAS (Nov. 1, 2023) – As the holiday season approaches, The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation will host and fully fund The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation Fall Food Drive on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center (1800 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas, TX 75216). Free and open to the public, the drive-up event will offer free meals to approximately 1,000 families. Pre-registration is NOT required.

"My family and I are happy that our foundation is able to assist our community at such an important time of year," said Dirk Nowitzki. "As we approach the holidays and the weather gets colder, we want to give back to North Texas and help families in need."

Local firefighters and

law-enforcement members from various agencies will volunteer to help load the food into cars on Nov. 9.

Each meal pack serving 4-6 people will include a whole uncooked turkey; a variety of sides (green beans, corn, macaroni and cheese, and mashed sweet potatoes); fresh potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams; two cans of cranberry sauce; dinner rolls; stuffing mix; a southern pecan pie or sweet potato pie; and a case of drinking water. A can opener, plastic utensils and containers to warm food will also be provided. Food boxes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

And with colder temperatures around the corner, The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation will donate warm blankets to participat-

ing families.

The event is in partnership with the Dallas Tennis Association's philanthropic arm, the Dallas Tennis and Education Academy (DTEA). DTEA provides free and low-cost tennis and education to under-resourced children and is headquartered at Kiest Tennis Center. Tennis is the hook; education is the goal – and for over 20 years 100% of DTEA students who stayed with the program have graduated from high school and gone on to college – most on academic or tennis scholarships.

The crown jewel of the DTEA is the Nowitzki Excellence Team, a group of 24 students who excel in academics and tennis at the highest level. Prior to the Nov. 9 event, students from the DTEA will help pack

hundreds of meal boxes for families. The meals will then be distributed to families at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center.

As Bert Cole, Director of the DTEA, says, "Giving back to the community is a core value of DTEA – so we are thrilled to be participating in the Dirk Nowitzki Foundation Fall Food Drive."

In addition, 100 meals will be delivered to families and senior citizens who reside in the Kiest Park neighborhoods including Cedar Crest, Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and southern Dallas.

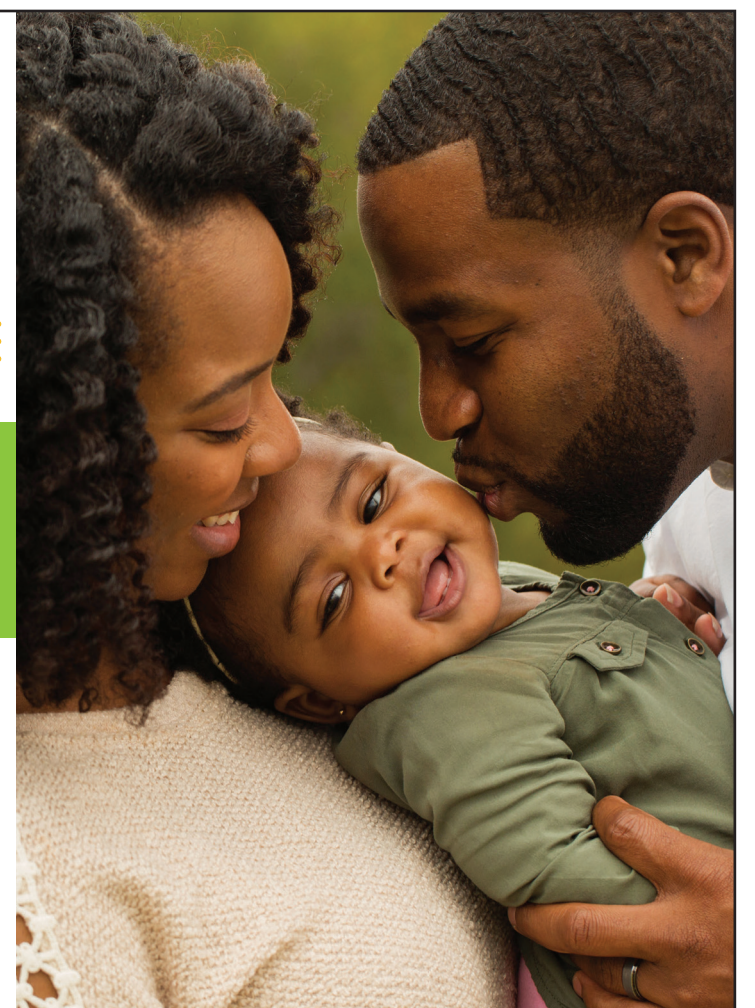
To learn more about the Dirk Nowitzki Foundation, please visit forty.one/us. For specific questions regarding the event, please contact Scott Tomlin at scott.tomlin@dncompanies.com.

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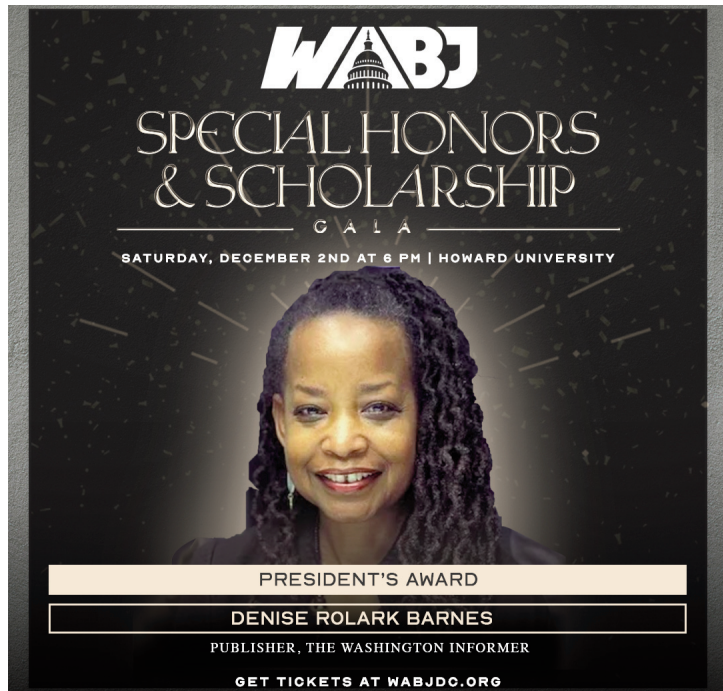
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Washington Informer Publisher to Receive Black Journalists President's Award



NNPA Newswire
The Washington Association of Black Journalists (WABJ) is proud to announce that Denise Rolark Barnes, the publisher, and second-generation owner of The Washington Informer, is the 2023 recipient of the WABJ President's Award. The WABJ president presents this award annu-

ally to a member who has made significant contributions to the organization's growth and reach in the D.C. area. Rolark Barnes will be honored at the WABJ Special Honors & Scholarship Gala on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Armour J. Blackburn University Center on the campus of Howard University. Tickets for the

gala can be purchased here.

"The Informer, under Denise Rolark Barnes' leadership, has been a longtime partner and supporter of our longstanding Urban Journalism Workshop for D.C. area high school students, and its support of WABJ's inaugural awards gala last year was instrumental to its tremendous success," said WABJ President Khorri Atkinson.

"WABJ is a volunteer-run organization that heavily relies on membership engagement and contributions to thrive and meet the needs of this moment in our industry," Atkinson added. "The WABJ Executive Board appreciates Ms. Rolark Barnes' contributions and her unwavering dedication to journalistic excellence and advocacy for the D.C. Black community."

Rolark Barnes succeeded her father, the late Dr.

Calvin W. Rolark Sr., who in 1964 founded the weekly newspaper serving the African American community in D.C. She has not only demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to community building throughout her tenure at the Informer, but also worked assiduously to ensure the publication is a trusted source of news and information about the local Black community.

One of her most significant achievements has been leveraging digital strategies to bolster the Informer's online presence, an accomplishment that recently earned her the Sales and Marketing Innovator of the Year award by Local Media Association. As Barnes continues to champion diversity, inclusion, and social progress through her work, she remains an inspiring figure and an advocate for positive change.

Continued **Fund** Page 5

Future Act.

The Fully Fund our Future Act would invest \$40 billion into our schools to bring Texas up to the national average in per-student funding while also increasing teacher pay by \$15,000, reduce class sizes, hire more school counsellors, close the special education funding gap, and increase school safety and mental health funding. The Fully Fund our Future Act is not a dream or a far-fetched idea, it's grounded in the reality that Texas has the funds available to fully fund our neighbourhood schools and rather than sitting on the money—we make the smartest investment our state can

make. It's time to INVEST in our kids.

Voucher proponents have tried to pass their agenda under the guise of school finance reform but it will only perpetuate the funding gap ever further. Rather than divesting from our public schools, Fully Fund our Future Act ensures our schools have the resources they need to serve our students. The Fully Fund our Future Act makes a Texas-sided investment in Texas children to provide all students with the education they deserve -the education they are entitled to by the Texas Constitution. I'm proud to support this legislation and call on my colleagues to fully fund our local schools.

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