

“By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions.” ~ Jens Stoltenberg



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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 7

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

October 28 - November 3, 2021

NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Texans will decide eight proposed amendments to the state Constitution on Nov. 2. Here's what you need to know.

BY ANDREW ZHANG

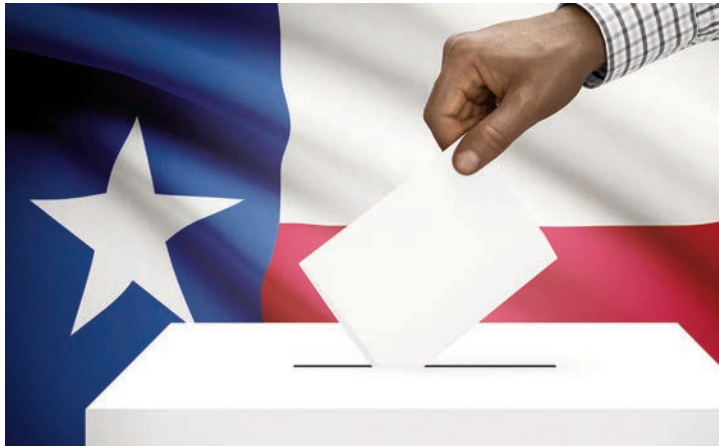


Photo Credit/NNPA

Two proposed amendments — one regarding religious services and another related to nursing home visitors — stem from restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Early voting begins Oct. 18.

Texas voters can soon weigh in on potential changes to the state's Constitution regarding religious services, eligibility requirements for judges, county infrastructure and more.

Election day is Nov. 2, and early

voting begins Oct. 18 and lasts until Oct. 29.

The proposed additions to the Texas Constitution were passed as bills during this year's legislative session, and a majority of voters in the state must approve each amendment before it can be officially added to the Constitution. In 2017, Texas voters approved all seven amendments on the ballot; in 2019, voters greenlighted nine out of 10 proposed changes.

There are no state elected seats on

the ballot this November. Certain local elections may have area-specific positions and initiatives on the ballot, such as school board officials and city council members. Check what's on your local ballot through VOTE411.org or by visiting your county's website.

Under each proposition, we have included the recommendations from Progress Texas, the Texas Freedom Caucus and the editorial boards of

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Ilyasah Shabazz Talks About 'The Awakening of Malcolm X'

"I didn't think that I was capable, but I wanted to, and so I decided to write a book, and that's when my editor found that my life as the daughter of Malcolm and Betty was not what one might have been expecting."

By Stacy M. Brown

Ilyasah Shabazz, the third daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, acknowledged being inspired by the current generation of activists who helped push the Black Lives Matter Movement globally.

She said her famous late parents predicted that young ones in this day would recognize those in power have misused their authority.

"They have to [uncover] the truth, and they are willing to do the necessary work ensuring that it happens," Shabazz told the National Newspaper Publishers Association in an exclusive interview at the Marriott Marquis hotel in New York City.

A role model herself, Shabazz has picked up the mantle from her beloved activist parents and has advocated for youth and women and girl empowerment.

She has dedicated her life to helping others "find inner strength and purpose," Shabazz, 59, stated. An Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, Shabazz has written five award-winning books about hers and her parents' lives.

The latest, *The Awakening of Malcolm X*, is described by publishers as "a powerful narrative account of the activist's

Continue **Malcolm** Page 2

Federation files motion on behalf of Black Farmers, to intervene in Texas lawsuit

By The Greene County Democrat



"The USDA has a documented history of discriminating against Black people and communities of color. The federal government's attempt to rectify this injustice should be applauded, not stopped," said Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "If this critical assistance is not provided soon, Black farmers and other farmers of color who have struggled to overcome decades of discrimination and the economic impacts of the global pandemic will face the threat of losing their land and their livelihoods."

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Prince/Page 7

First steps made in Congress to honor pop superstar Prince



West/Page 7

Sen. Royce West receives Champion of Transparency Award from Texas Press



Harris/Page 2

Harris to travel to Paris next month for talks with Macron



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Harris to travel to Paris next month for talks with Macron

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris will head next month to Paris for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, according to the White House.

The White House announced Harris' visit to France as President Joe Biden and Macron spoke by phone on Friday. The two presidents are scheduled to meet in Rome later this month on the margins of the Group of 20 summit.

Macron's office said in a statement that he and Biden discussed "the establishment of a stronger European defense, complementary to NATO and contributing to global security."

In addition to meeting with Macron, Harris will deliver a speech on Nov. 11 at the annual Paris Peace Forum and participate the following day in the Paris Conference on Libya. She will be joined by her husband Douglas Emhoff for the visit.

The scheduled meet-



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the Northeast Bronx YMCA, in the Bronx borough of New York, Friday, Oct. 22, 2021. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

ing comes amid an effort by the Biden administration to soothe its relationship with the French which became strained by a U.S. deal announced last month to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia. The move by the U.S. undercut a more than \$60 billion deal by a French defense contractor to sell diesel-powered submarines to Australia.

"They will discuss the importance of the transatlantic relationship to global peace and

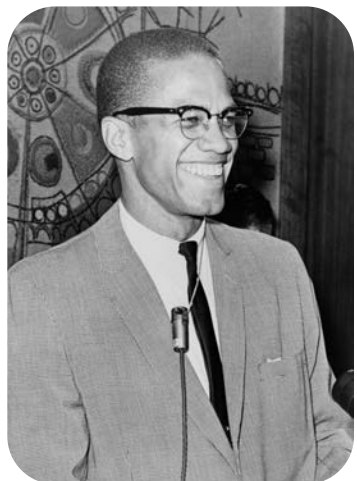
security and underscore the importance of our partnership on global challenges from COVID-19 and the climate crisis to issues affecting the Sahel and the Indo-Pacific," Harris senior adviser Symone Sanders said in a statement.

Harris and Emhoff's visit coincides with Veterans Day in the U.S. and Armistice Day in France. The two plan to mark the solemn commemorations with a visit to Suresnes American Cemetery outside Paris, Sanders said.

Continued:

Ilyasah Shabazz Talks About 'The Awakening of Malcolm X'

Page 1



Malcolm X

She noted that much of her activism and the foundation for her beliefs are addressed in each of her books, "Growing Up X," "Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X," "X: A Novel," and "Before Betty X."

"I remember when I wrote 'Growing Up X' my mother had just passed away, and I recalled attending a town hall meeting with her where everyone got up to speak and acknowledged her," Shabazz remembered.

"I admired my mother because she wasn't there to say something great and leave. Instead, she was there to make a difference. At that moment, though, I also remember thinking what we would ever do if we lost her."

Betty Shabazz died in 1997, slightly more than 32 years after Malcolm X's assassination.

"I wanted to finish some of the work my mother was doing," Shabazz insisted.

"I didn't think that I was capable, but I wanted to, and so I decided to write a book, and that's when my editor found that my life as the daughter of Malcolm and Betty was not what one might have been expecting.

"People were misinformed, and there were so



Ilyasah Shabazz

many false images and information about my father. My father was joy, dignity, and truth. Unfortunately, the images portrayed by some were absolutely contradictory to all of that, so whenever people would meet my sisters and me, they were thrown off."

Shabazz, who has implemented several cultural and community outreach initiatives, revealed that she and her sisters had enjoyed excellent relationships with the families of civil rights icons Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers. "We are fortunate to have and have had relationships with Aunt Coretta (Scott-King) and Aunt Myrlie (Evers)," Shabazz stated.

"I am also grateful to have [King's daughter] as my sister."

Shabazz echoed her father when discussing racism in America.

"If we all believe in the oneness of God, we certainly believe in the oneness of man, the oneness of women, and the oneness of humanity," Shabazz declared.

"My father provided the biggest critique of America and insisted that America live up to her promise of liberty and justice for all. Malcolm insisted on the truth. "I'm optimistic about this generation, and my father recognized that this generation of young people would be willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work necessary, and that's what we are seeing."

"After the murder of George Floyd, young people organized these mass movements in all 50 states and in 18 countries abroad where people from every walk of life proclaimed that Black lives matter. I think everyone got it."

Mayor Johnson tests positive for breakthrough COVID-19 case, encourages vaccinations

DALLAS — Mayor Eric Johnson on Tuesday released the following statement:

"This morning, I tested positive for COVID-19. Thankfully, I am fully vaccinated, and I am only experiencing mild symptoms. My wife Nikki, who is also fully vaccinated, has tested negative.

"Our primary concern at this time is the health of our children, who are not yet eligible to receive a vaccine.

"I have notified my recent close contacts about my positive test, and we have alerted our boys' schools. After I first began to feel ill late Monday, I also canceled my Tuesday events to ensure that I did not put anyone at risk. Now that I have confirmation of my status, I will be unable to preside over Wednesday's Dallas City Council meeting and will unfortunately have to miss other engagements



Mayor Eric Johnson

this week.

"I appreciate your thoughts and prayers on behalf of my family, and I look forward to a speedy recovery so I can get back to work with my colleagues on behalf of the people of Dallas.

"In addition, I want to take this opportunity to again encourage residents of Dallas to get vaccinated if they have not yet done so — and to receive a booster shot when they are eligible. The vaccines have saved lives and can make breakthrough cases, like mine, far less severe."

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Carver Heights Baptist Church
2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216
P. 214-371-2024



Pastor Daryl R. Carter

Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.
Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.



The Mount Moriah
Missionary Baptist Church

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

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

Wednesday
Prayer Bible Fellowship 7:00 p.m.

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Rev. J. Calvin Smith
Pastor



Pilgrim Rest
Missionary Baptist Church

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

Worship Opportunities
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5th Sunday, Combined Worship: 10:00 am
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Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

Monday Morning Worship
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Rev. Dr. C.J.R Phillips Jr.

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Sammie Berry
Minister

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Sunday Bible School
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Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.


Tuesday Song Practice
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Class
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Associate Ministers:
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Ben Myers
Patrick Worthley

Elders:
Frederick Green
Raymond Hart
Otis Idlebird, Jr.
Jason Moseley
David Phillips, Jr.

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY
Early Worship 8:00 a.m.
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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

THURSDAY
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

"A GREAT PROMISE THAT WAS FULFILLED"

ACTS 1:1-8

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



The book of Acts is a continuation of Dr. Luke's treatise in the Gospel of Luke in which he gives an account of what Jesus did and taught as He sojourned among men for thirty-three years. This chronicle of Jesus' life covers the time of His birth, awesome ministry, and the point of His death, resurrection and ascension. Dr. Luke, the writer of Acts, addressed this book to a specific person, namely Theophilus, whose name means "friend of God." Many scholars advance that

the book of Acts was written about A.D. 62 or 63, because it makes no reference to the persecution by Nero (A.D. 64), or Paul's death (A.D. 68), or to the time when Jerusalem was destroyed (A.D. 70). The book of Acts serves as the historical connection between the Gospels and the Epistles. It records the marvelous work of the Saviour through His followers. In Acts 1:3, Jesus Christ was seen of His disciples for forty days in which He gave them indisputable evidence

of His resurrection. Again, these infallible proofs (positive proofs) served as evidence that Christ kept His promise that He would rise from the grave (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31, 9:31; Luke 9:22, 18:33). During the forty days, Christ appeared at least eleven different times to His disciples. During this time He spoke about "things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." According to verses 4 and 5, Christ gives specific instruction that the assembled group should wait for the

promise of the Father – the coming of the Holy Spirit as their guide in continuing the ministry of Christ through them. As John baptized with water, this assembled group would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (v. 5). Having taught His disciples during the forty days "of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God", the disciples were eager to know the time when this Kingdom would be established, thinking that Jesus would now reign as King since the crucifixion

was now past and Jesus had been victorious over the grave. Jesus replied to these disciples by simply saying that the precise time for the restoration of Israel's Kingdom was God's secret and was not important for them to know - "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (v. 7). Although the exact time of Israel's Kingdom was not given, Christ gives a commission to these disciples that is still valid today for us - "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part

of the earth" (v. 8). With this commission, Christ promises power to carry out the responsibility to be witnesses for Him. Power to carry out the commission comes from the Holy Spirit. As witnesses for Christ, we need the Holy Spirit's power as we carry the message of the gospel. From Acts 1:8, the message of the gospel expanded from Jerusalem (chapters 1-7), Samaria (chapters 8-12), and unto the uttermost part of the earth (chapters 13-28). Because Christ's promise was fulfilled, we have the power in the Person of the Holy Spirit to equip us in telling a dying world about the emancipating love of God in saving the lost.

May God Bless!



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City of Dallas Breaks Ground on Southern Dallas Mixed-Income / Workforce Community

The Ridge at Lancaster spanning approximately 94 acres will include market rate and workforce housing options and onsite amenities

DALLAS — A new mixed-income housing and transit-oriented development broke ground Monday in Southern Dallas.

Located at 2101 Crouch Rd., Ridge at Lancaster will boast 300 units, 270 of which will be reserved for families earning up to 60% of the area median income (AMI). The rest of the units will be available at market rate pricing. The apartment complex will have up to four-bedroom units available.

This development is made possible by a partnership with the City of Dallas and LDG Development. It is owned and financed by the Dallas Housing Finance Corporation in partnership with LDG Development and will help to fill Dallas' growing need for attainable and diverse housing options. Located near Camp Wisdom DART Rail Station, residents will have transportation access to major employment centers throughout the City.

The Ridge at Lancaster is in concert with the City's Comprehensive Housing Policy and was recommended

for approval by the Housing & Homelessness Solution's Committee and approved by City Council in May 2020. The Dallas Housing Finance Corporation authorized financial close of the development in April 2021.

Tennell Atkins, District 8 Councilmember and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, who represents the area and played a key role in bringing this development forward, believes that the addition of this mixed-income development will lead to other investments in the neighborhood and surrounding area.

"The City of Dallas is excited to break ground on The Ridge at Lancaster. This first phase is a \$75 million investment into District 8 that will provide high-quality, workforce housing for our residents. The second and third phases of this mixed-income development will provide additional housing options for our residents in the form of market-rate townhomes as well as much needed commercial/retail space," Councilmember Atkins said.

"The total development cost is estimated to be \$210 million and will serve as an economic development catalyst leading to additional investment in the community."

The property will offer several upgraded features including spacious floor plans with upgraded flooring and granite countertops; fitness and business centers; and a large swimming pool. Residents can also enjoy quick access to public transportation and Dallas' new Singing Hills Recreation Center.

LDG Development is the country's largest developer of affordable workforce housing with more than 20,000 units across the country, including 7,500 in Texas. The Dallas Housing Finance Corporation issued \$50 million in private activity bonds to fund the project and will own the project in partnership with LDG. Additional funding for this project is being provided by Red Stone and Enterprise Community Partners. Once complete, The Ridge at Lancaster will be LDG's first property in the City of Dallas. "Communities across the

country are struggling to keep up with the growing demand for new housing that is located in close proximity to retail and commercial amenities that families and individuals frequent on a daily basis," said Chris Dischinger, co-founder, and co-principal of LDG Development. "This development reflects that demand, while recognizing that any long-term success of an area has to include an influx of diverse housing options."

The Ridge at Lancaster is the first phase of a three-phase development spanning approximately 94 acres. It will include market rate and diverse housing options and will offer onsite amenities including 250,000 square feet of commercial and retail space.

Plans for the remaining phases of this development are currently in design. This will include 250 units of townhomes and the commercial and retail spaces. Construction on the remaining phases of this development is expected to begin July 2022.

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Stop the Flu Before it Stops You: Get your flu shot

Protecting the health of yourself and your family is more important now than ever before. Getting sick can increase stress, medical expenses or time off from work or school. Flu season begins in the fall every year and lasts through winter. The best way to prevent the flu is by receiving an annual flu shot, the sooner the better. Stop the flu before it stops you.

Why you need a flu shot

- Every year the flu shot prevents illnesses, hospitalizations and death.
- The flu shot helps prevent patients with chronic illnesses from getting the flu. Chronic illnesses like diabetes or heart disease can increase risk of flu complications.
- The flu shot helps protect pregnant women and their baby from flu illness and hospitalization.
- Your protection from a flu shot lessens over time. To keep yourself and your family protected from the flu, make sure you all receive a flu shot every year. Children can begin receiving flu shots as early as six months old.

The best ways to protect yourself from the flu

1. Get the flu shot. Getting vaccinated every year is the best way to prevent the flu.
2. Clean your hands. Wash your hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with alcohol.
3. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth. You can get sick if you get germs on your hands and you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
4. Stay home when you are sick. Keep your kids at home when they are sick. This will help protect others from getting sick too.
5. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze.
6. Follow other healthy habits. Get enough sleep, stay active and eat healthy food.

To get your annual flu shot, visit one of Parkland's community-based health centers for Walk-in Wednesdays, no appointment needed. For more information on flu and upcoming flu drives, visit www.parklandhospital.com/flu.

Sheriff: Movie set showed 'some complacency' with weapons

By MORGAN LEE, SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN and CEDAR ATTANASIO

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Investigators said Wednesday that there was "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on the movie set where Alec Baldwin accidentally shot and killed a cinematographer and wounded another person, but it's too soon to determine whether charges will be filed.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

The Redistricting Conspiracy and “Us”

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

As we move closer to publishing the proposed new electoral districts here and around the country, based upon the 2020 ten year census we see an attempt at history repeating itself in the area of voter suppression at all levels. The drawing of new boundaries so as to weaken the voting strength of people of color while increasing the power of the White vote, even when numbers are down, is one example of the conspiracy.

What is a conspiracy by definition? It's an agreement by two or more people to engage in an illegal activity. Across this country, Republicans, who are predominantly White, have redefined voting laws and procedures in over 22 states. They have reduced voting times, precincts and locations for ballot box returns. This is all before the 2020 Census was completed.

We know that Blacks and

Latinos have been undercounted. We know that, as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court striking down Section V of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in 2013, The Department of Justice's review of changes in voting districts as proposed by the Redistricting under the 2020 Census no longer exists. We know that those cases challenging gerrymandered districts will probably be upheld when they reach the U.S. Supreme Court with its conservative, Trump-appointed majority on the bench. And, we know that without the Department of Justice's overview of the term "Communities of Interest" (COI), as used in the Census, some groups are using those words to mean communities of "business interests", like the Rolando community not wanting to be in District Four of the City of San Diego because of the number of perceived



Dr. John E. Warren

African-American families or residents. Small groups of unified Whites can have proposed boundaries redrawn to suit their interest if others are not participating in the process. We have proposed new

districts for all levels of government in California. It's time we got involved before others do so for us. Remember, if you are not seated at the table, then most likely you are on the menu.

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FDA panel backs Pfizer's low-dose COVID-19 vaccine for kids

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and MATTHEW PERRONE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. moved a step closer to expanding COVID-19 vaccinations for millions more children as government advisers on Tuesday endorsed kid-size doses of Pfizer's shots for 5- to 11-year-olds.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel voted unanimously, with one abstention, that the vaccine's benefits in preventing COVID-19 in that age group outweigh any potential risks. That includes questions about a heart-related side effect that's been very rare in teens and young adults despite their use of a much higher vaccine dose.

While children are far less likely than older people to get severe COVID-19, ultimately many panelists decided it's important to give parents the choice to protect their youngsters — especially those at high risk of illness or who live in places where other precautions, like masks in schools, aren't being used.

"This is an age group that deserves and should have the same opportunity to be vaccinated as every other age," said panel member Dr. Amanda Cohn of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The FDA isn't bound by the panel's recommendation and is expected to make its own decision within days. If the FDA concurs, there's still another step: Next week, the CDC will have to decide whether to recommend the shots and which youngsters should get them. Full-strength shots made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech already are recommended for everyone 12 and older but pediatricians and many parents are clamoring for protection for younger children. The extra-contagious delta variant has caused an alarming rise in pediatric infections -- and families are frustrated with school quarantines and having to say no to sleepovers and other rites of childhood to keep the virus at bay.

In the 5- to 11-year-old age group, there have been over 8,300 hospitalizations reported, about a third requiring intensive care, and nearly 100 deaths.

States are getting ready to roll out the shots — just a third of the amount given to teens and adults — that will come in special orange-capped vials to avoid dosage mix-ups. More than 25,000 pediatricians and other primary care providers have signed up so far to offer vaccination, which will also be

available at pharmacies and other locations.

But for all that anticipation, there also are people who strongly oppose vaccinating younger children, and both FDA and its advisers were inundated with an email campaign seeking to block the Pfizer shot.

Pfizer studied 2,268 elementary schoolchildren given two shots three weeks apart of either a placebo or the kid dose. Vaccinated youngsters developed levels of virus-fighting antibodies just as strong as teens and young adults who got the full-strength shots. More important, the vaccine proved nearly 91% effective at preventing symptomatic infection — based on 16 cases of COVID-19 among kids given dummy shots compared to just three who got vaccinated.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects — such as sore arms, fever or achiness — that teens experience. At FDA's request, Pfizer more recently enrolled another 2,300 youngsters into the study, and preliminary safety data has shown no red flags.

But that study isn't large enough to detect any extremely rare side effects, such as the heart inflamma-

tion that occasionally occurs after the second full-strength dose, mostly in young men and teen boys. The panel spent hours discussing if younger children, given a smaller dose, might face that side effect, too.

Statistical models developed by FDA scientists showed that in most scenarios of the continuing pandemic, the vaccine would prevent far more COVID-19 hospitalizations in this age group than would potentially be caused by that rare heart problem.

FDA's models suggested the vaccine could prevent 200 to 250 hospitalizations for every 1 million youngsters vaccinated — assuming that virus spread remained high, something that's hard to predict. FDA scientists also said younger kids likely won't have as much risk of heart inflammation as teens but if they did, it might cause about 58 hospitalizations per million vaccinations.

"I do think it's a relatively close call," said adviser Dr. Eric Rubin of Harvard University. "It's really going to be a question of what the prevailing conditions are but we're never going to learn about how safe this vaccine is unless we start giving it."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 online.

Check back for updates on
 additional locations as they
 become available.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Oct. 28	Friday, Oct. 29	Saturday, Oct. 30	Sunday, Oct. 31	Monday, Nov. 1	Tuesday, Nov. 2	Wednesday, Nov. 3
H - 70° L - 54°	H - 68° L - 48°	H - 72° L - 51°	H - 74° L - 56°	H - 70° L - 56°	H - 67° L - 53°	H - 69° L - 55°

Bad break: Braves' Morton fractures leg in Series opener

By RONALD BLUM



(AP Photo/Ashley Landis)

HOUSTON (AP) — Charlie Morton spun a curveball past Jose Altuve for a called third strike, his 16th pitch after taking a 102 mph comebacker off his right leg. Morton stumbled and started to fall. Turns out the leg was broken.

"I wouldn't think it's possible," catcher Travis d'Arnaud said. "It's incredible that he even like thought of going out there."

Morton's right fibula was fractured by Yuli Gurriel's one-hop screamer leading off the second inning of Tuesday night's World Series opener, a ball hit so hard it ricocheted to first baseman Freddie Freeman for an out.

By the time Morton faced Altuve leading off the third with a 5-0 lead, the leg had started to swell. Four relievers combined to pitch 6 2/3 innings and finish a 6-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

Morton's World Series was over soon after it started. "You don't wish bad on anybody," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "Charlie

Morton is one of the best guys around, too."

After Gurriel, Morton struck out Chas McCormick on four pitches, then retired Martin Maldonado on a liner to first base.

"When the inning was over, we meet and talk about what's going on," d'Arnaud recalled. "He said, 'Oh, that one got me good.' He was kind of walking a little funny. I didn't think it was broken."

Braves manager Brian Snitker said an initial X-ray after the second failed to show a break.

"He wanted to keep going, because he was down in the tunnel and he was throwing against the wall," Snitker explained. "He said, 'It kind of hurts more when I run. I feel good when I throw.'"

Morton went back out for the third. Still reaching up to 95.9 mph, he struck out Altuve. The 37-year-old right-hander braced himself with both arms after the pitch and grimaced as he popped back up, then rubbed

at his right ankle.

"To go out there and strike out the next guy with a broken leg, it blows my mind," d'Arnaud said, repeating for emphasis. "It blows my mind."

Head athletic trainer George Poulis and manager Snitker came to the mound, and Morton walked back to the dugout, favoring a leg. By the fifth inning, the Braves said Morton's next mound appearance was expected to be during spring training.

"That's Charlie," Snitker said. "He wants to be on this stage. God bless him, I hate it for him. Really hate it for him. He's such a great person, great person and teammate."

A.J. Minter came in and pitched 2 2/3 innings of one-run ball for the win.

"Whenever I got through with my first inning, I went up to the locker room real quick, and I heard the news," Minter said. "You could tell he was devastated, but he wasn't going to show it."

Continued **Texans** Page 1

some major Texas newspapers: Austin American-Statesman, The Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth-Star Telegram, San Antonio Express-News (Propositions 1-4, 5-8) and Houston Chronicle (only endorsed for Propositions 2 and 3). Progress Texas is a progressive media organization, and the Freedom Caucus is a conservative advocacy group in the Texas House of Representatives.

Here's the breakdown of each proposed amendment.

Proposition 1: rodeo raffles

Proposition 1 would allow charitable raffles at rodeo events. Unauthorized raffles can be considered illegal gambling under Texas law.

In 2015, voters approved a rule to allow charitable raffles at professional sports games. The resulting change created fundraising opportunities for education, cancer research and youth programs, according to an amendment analysis.

The constitutional amendment on the ballot this November would extend that permission to rodeo events by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News

Editorial Board

Against: Texas Freedom Caucus

Proposition 2: tax financing for county infrastructure

This amendment would authorize counties to issue bonds or notes to raise funds for transportation infrastructure in underdeveloped areas. Already, cities and towns have the authority to fund projects with this financing method.

Counties would repay these bonds by pledging increased property tax revenues, but these funds cannot be used for construction, maintenance or acquisition of toll roads.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Houston Chronicle Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board

Against: Texas Freedom Caucus

Proposition 3: restrictions on religious services

If approved, Proposition 3 would ban the state from prohibiting or limiting religious services, including those in churches and other places of worship.

The move stems from conflicts over churches that closed during the early months of the pandemic in 2020. Some local officials extended stay-at-home orders to include places of worship, requiring them to limit attendance or make services

virtual — a trend Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republicans pushed back on.

But critics of the proposal worry the change could prevent the government from acting to protect people in future emergencies, such as evacuations and public health emergencies.

For: The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Texas Freedom Caucus

Against: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Houston Chronicle Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board

Proposition 4: state judge eligibility

Proposition 4 would require candidates to have 10 years of experience practicing law in Texas to be eligible for election to the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals or a Texas court of appeals. Currently, the law requires 10 years of experience but allows for out-of-state experience.

Additionally, candidates running to be a district judge would need eight years of law practice or judicial experience in a Texas court, up from the current requirement of four years.

Proponents of the change argue it could create a higher-quality judiciary, but opponents say the proposed requirements could reduce voter choice and diversity within the candidate pool. In Texas, judges are elected by pop-

ular vote.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board

Against: Progress Texas

Neutral: Texas Freedom Caucus

Proposition 5: judicial misconduct process

Proposition 5 would allow the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to have oversight of candidates running for judicial seats by accepting complaints or reports, conducting investigations and reprimanding them. The commission, an independent agency created by the state Constitution, already has these powers over current judicial officeholders.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board, Texas Freedom Caucus

Against: Progress Texas

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Proposition 6: essential caregiver designation

This amendment would allow residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to designate one essential caregiver who cannot be denied in-person visitation rights. If the proposition passes, the Legislature would create further guidelines for these caregivers.

Like Proposition 3, Proposition 6 also comes as a response to pandemic-era restrictions. Nursing homes, which were hit particularly hard by COVID-19, saw extended visitation restrictions that prevented residents from seeing family and friends for months.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board, Texas Freedom Caucus

Proposition 7: property tax exemptions for bereaved families

Proposition 7 would put a limit on school district property taxes incurred by the surviving spouse of a person with disabilities older than 65 who has died. The surviving spouse must be at least 55 years old at the partner's time of death and still live in the home.

The amendment is necessary to update the Constitution in accordance with the tax code, which was modified in the 2019 legislative session to include this change. If approved, individuals eligible for these tax breaks could receive refunds on collections in 2020 and 2021.

The resolution could reduce school district property tax revenue and increase state funding in accordance with Texas public school funding formulas, according to analysis of the amendment.

However, the exact cost of the change cannot be estimated because the number of surviving spouses is unknown.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board, Texas Freedom Caucus

Proposition 8: property tax exemptions for military families

Proposition 8 would expand eligibility for residential homestead tax exemptions to include spouses of military members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty. Currently, the exemption is extended to spouses of military members killed in action. The new eligibility would include people killed in accidental vehicle crashes or non-hostile events.

This exemption would apply to fewer than 10 people per year, according to analysis of the amendment.

For: Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board, The Dallas Morning News Editorial Board, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board, Progress Texas, San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board, Texas Freedom Caucus

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/10/15/texas-constitution-amendment-election/>.

First steps made in Congress to honor pop superstar Prince

By MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — Minnesota's Congressional delegation on Monday is introducing a resolution to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to pop superstar Prince, citing his "indelible mark on Minnesota and American culture," The Associated Press has learned. The medal is one of the nation's highest civilian honors and past recipients include George Washington, the Wright Brothers, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, the Navajo Code Talkers, the Tuskegee Airmen and the Dalai Lama. "The world is a whole lot cooler because Prince was in it — he touched our hearts, opened our minds, and made us want to dance. With this legislation, we honor his mem-

ory and contributions as a composer, performer, and music innovator. Purple reigns in Minnesota today and every day because of him," said Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who represents the state, in a statement. Prince, whose hits include "Little Red Corvette," "Let's Go Crazy" and "When Doves Cry," died April 21, 2016, of an accidental fentanyl overdose at age 57 at his Paisley Park estate in Chanhassen, Minnesota. The resolution for Prince is led by Klobuchar and U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Democrat who represents Minneapolis in the House. The full Minnesota delegation serves as original cosponsors, including Sen. Tina Smith and Reps. Jim Hagedorn, Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Tom

Emmer, Michelle Fischbach, Pete Stauber and Omar. "Prince is a Minnesota icon," said Omar in a statement. "He showed that it was OK to be a short, Black kid from Minneapolis and still change the world. He not only changed the arc of music history; he put Minneapolis on the map." The legislation notes that Prince is "widely regarded as one of the greatest musicians of his generation," with seven Grammy Awards, six American Music Awards, an Oscar for the score to "Purple Rain" and a Golden Globe. It adds that he is a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, sold more than 150 million records worldwide and that "Purple Rain" was added by the Library of



FILE - In this Feb. 4, 2007, file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XLII football game in Miami. Minnesota's Congressional delegation on Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, is introducing a resolution to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to pop superstar Prince, citing his "indelible mark on Minnesota and American culture," The Associated Press has learned. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara, File)

Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry. The bill also puts into the Congressional record the glyph he used instead of his name for a time that Prince called "The Love Symbol." Under the rules, Congressional Gold Medals require the support of at least two-thirds of the members of both the Senate and House of Representatives before

they can be signed into law by the president. The Prince legislation will be introduced in the House and Senate. Born Prince Rogers Nelson, the singer, songwriter, arranger and instrumentalist broke through in the late 1970s with the hits "Why You Wanna Treat Me So Bad?" and "I Wanna Be Your Lover," and soared over the following decade with such albums as

"1999" and "Purple Rain." Among his other notable releases: "Sign O' the Times," "Graffiti Bridge" and "The Black Album." If the gold medal is approved and made, the bill asks that it be given to the Smithsonian Institution, which should make it available for display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture or on loan.

Sen. Royce West receives Champion of Transparency Award from Texas Press



Sen. Royce West accepts the Champion of Transparency Award from Donnis Baggett and Mike Hodges of Texas Press

AUSTIN — The Texas Press Association has named Sen. Royce West a Champion of Transparency for his legislative work in 2021. "Senator West is a strong advocate for openness at all levels of government," said Mike Hodges, executive director of the TPA. "He understands that transparency is essential to government accountability. We greatly appreciate his willingness to fight for this important principle, and we're proud to present him with this award." Bills filed by West during the regular legislative session focused on improving law enforcement accountability, monitoring school discipline, financial reporting by public officials and improving public access to meetings held by state agencies and government entities. "I've always believed that an informed citizenry is a partner to our ongoing exercise in representative

democracy and that people have a right to know how and why decisions are made that will impact them," said West. "I thank the Texas Press Association for their willingness to look beyond the headlines to explore the motivation and effort involved in helping to make Texas work better for all. Government's true role should be to help people." "Senator West is a superb advocate for the people's right to know what their government is up to," said Donnis Baggett, TPA executive vice president. "He understands that open records and open meetings are not only a news media issue but an important public policy issue." TPA represents some 400 newspapers of all sizes across Texas. The association presents the transparency awards to state officials who go the extra mile to protect and promote open government.

Federation files motion on behalf of Black Farmers to intervene in Texas lawsuit, which blocks \$4 billion debt relief in Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan

East Point, GA — After decades of long-standing racism in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) loan programs, Black farmers stand to lose their farms, land and livelihoods after a temporary injunction halted an estimated \$4 billion in debt relief passed by Congress as part of the American Rescue Act. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Public Counsel, and pro bono counsel Winston & Strawn LLP, filed an intervention motion on behalf of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (the Federation). The motion was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas in *Miller v. Vilsack*. Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan, signed into law on March 11, 2021, was designed to provide debt relief to Black farmers, and other farmers of color, who have long suffered at the hands of the USDA's harmful discrimination. The USDA's long documented and acknowledged racist policies of denying and delaying loans prevented Black farmers from operating successful farm businesses, forcing foreclosures and continuing the shameful legacy of Black land loss in the United States. In *Miller v. Vilsack*, five White Texas farmers

filed a lawsuit against the USDA alleging that loan forgiveness payments violate the U.S. Constitution. This case is one of many ongoing lawsuits involving Section 1005 in other jurisdictions, including Florida, where a federal court issued a preliminary injunction against the program. Plaintiffs specifically argued that Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 ("ARPA") violates the equal protection rights promised under the Constitution for farmers and ranchers who stand eligible for USDA loans but do not qualify for debt relief under the program. "The USDA has a documented history of discriminating against Black people and communities of color. The federal government's attempt to rectify this injustice should be applauded, not stopped," said Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "If this critical assistance is not provided soon, Black farmers and other farmers of color who have struggled to overcome decades of discrimination and the economic impacts of the global pandemic will face the threat of losing their land and their livelihoods." Farmer declarations included in the intervention cite multiple instances of discrimination, includ-

ing:

- Misplaced loan paperwork and approval delays of more than two years
- Inability to sell equipment to repay loans due to vandalism at the auction house in the form of racist graffiti on the tractors up for bid
- Loan paperwork being filed on time but funds chronically arriving too late for planting season
- Inaccurate advice about whether FSA loans could be restructured, and
- Receiving loan funds weeks later in the season than White farmers in the same area, providing them with an unfair advantage in planting and harvesting a profitable crop.

Encountering years of unfair loan terms, mistreatment by the USDA, and discrimination at every turn, Black farmers are now currently less than 1% of all farmers in the country. This has not always been the case. In 1920, one out of every seven farms were owned by a Black farmer, but the number of Black farmers in America has dropped significantly — plummeting by 98% over the past century. "The Federation was encouraged by USDA's and Congress's attempt to address the disproportionate impact of the debt burden that farmers of

color face because of historic and on-going race-based discrimination in agricultural credit," said Cornelius Blanding, Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. "Black farmers have always honored their commitments to their communities and our nation; our hope is that the Department will be allowed to honor its commitment to our farmers and other farmers of color." A temporary injunction against the program stands in the way of critical debt relief for those who need it the most. Without debt relief, these farmers face losing their land, livelihoods and equipment, while also bearing the additional financial burden of the farming costs they've taken on in anticipation of debt forgiveness. Today's intervention positions The Federation to vigorously defend Section 1005 and ensure that the narratives of Black farmers are heard as this debt relief is critical to their survival. For more information on this lawsuit intervention, or to discuss other issues with discrimination and land loss, contact Attorney Dania Davy at the Federation office at: daniadavy@federation.coop or call 404-765-0991. This article originally appeared in *The Greene County Democrat*.



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